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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you conduct emergency drills at home?

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INSIDE

AIG Bailout

For the second time this month, the U.S. government put taxpayer money on the hook to rescue a private financial company, saying the failure of the huge insurer American International Group Inc. would further disrupt markets and threaten the already fragile economy.

Business...Page 14

Milk Misery

China's health minister said Wednesday that tainted milk formula has killed three Chinese babies and sickened 6,200 in a spreading scandal that prompted three additional companies–including China's biggest dairy–to recall products.

Asia ...Page 16

Impact of federalization on local culture hot topic at forum. **PAGE 2**
Hirshbein asks employers to follow-up applications. **PAGE 5**

TO PAY FOR AGGREKO GENERATORS

CUC banking on $3.4M from govt, PSS

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is counting on the central government and the Public School System to pay more than $3 million in past debt in order to pay for the Aggreko generators, CUC Executive Director Antonio Muna said yesterday.

Muna

The government owes $1.6 million while PSS owes $1.8 million, he said.

"At this point, we're leaning on the

See CUC on Page 4

PROTEST RALLY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of community members and ratepayers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation flash candles, flashlights, cellphones, banners, and placards calling for federal intervention in the CUC crisis during a peaceful protest rally at the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday. Inset shows two-year-old Devin Propst holding his banner.

Tim, co-defendants appear in court, waive speedy trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Timothy Pangelinan Villagomez and his co-defendants yesterday appeared in federal court and requested waiving their rights to a speedy trial.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the request of Villagomez and co-defendants former Commerce Secretary James Apatang Santos and his wife Joaquina Villagomez Santos and reset the jury trial for March 23, 2009 at 9am.

At the hearing, Munson first called Villagomez, then

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez is escorted by his wife Margaret and attorney Joey San Nicolas after a hearing at the U.S. District Court at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan yesterday.

Pete A. seeks continued funding of Wash. office

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Washington Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has urged the Legislature to fund his office until it shuts down with the installation of the CNMI's first-ever congressional delegate in 2009.

Tenorio

See PETE on Page 4

New Rota shrimp farm is jumping

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—The newly launched shrimp farm here is literally jumping with activity as its management eyes the pending military buildup in Guam and early

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Hans Mickelson

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Local

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Community members listen to panelists Rep. Tina Sablan, Gregorio Cruz, Irene Tantiado, Dr. Carmen Fernandez, Edwin Propst, Sam McPhetres, Viola Alepuyo, and moderator attorney Robert Torres during the discussion about federalization, particularly its impact on the local culture at the American Memorial Park Auditorium Tuesday night. The roundtable discussion is part of the NMI Council for the Humanities's "We the People" Project and organized by Taro Leaf, Inc.

Impact of federalization on local culture hot topic at forum

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The would-be impact of federalization to local culture, particularly Chamorro and Carolinian, became a hot topic at a roundtable discussion organized by the NMI Council for the Humanities last Tuesday night at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

The panelists were Viola Alepuyo, Greg Cruz, Carmen Fernandez, Sam McPhetres, Edwin Propst, Rep. Tina Sablan, and Irene Tantiado.

Propst said it was a well done forum and he feels that he has got a lot to think about because the issue of cultural impact is something never spoken about when it comes to the issue of federalization.

He said it has always been economics that people are talking about.

"It was a beautiful discussion. Everybody's opinions added to the success of the forum," Propst said.

In wrapping-up the discussion, moderator Robert Torres said that despite the differences of opinions, the important thing was that they were able to set a venue to talk about the issue and hear each other's views.

Propst's father, Ivan, who has been living on Saipan since 1975, said that this kind of forum demonstrated the value of democracy.

"This would only mean that we are living in a civil setting and that we all have divergent position on a hot topic," the elder Propst said referring to the highly controversial federalization issue.

He said the panelists stuck to the topic and the most interesting was that not many people are so much concerned about the cultural aspect of federalization issue.

For him, federalization is not really a threat and instead will give culture a chance to flourish.

Ivan Propst believes that long before the federalization issue came to fore, the traditional culture in the CNMI has eroded and transformed into a multicultural setting.

He recalled that in the past, all teachers were Chamorros but this has gradually changed when foreign nationals started coming in.

He also observed that domestic helpers from the Philippines have long been taking care of children and do the house chores and eventually influenced the local families.

Chailang Palacios lauded the panelists for being articulate and intelligent, but she said they have not grasped the real importance of local culture just yet.

"They are too green about it," said Palacios, who is a Chamorro.

This is because, she said, most of the panelists were too young to understand traditional culture.

However, Palacios noted that the forum made everyone realize that it is not just the economy that matters but also culture.

"It gives us the chance to really listen and compare our different views. I am pleased," she said.

Palacios believes in federalization because "our leaders failed to correct the errors the past 20 years."

Rabby Syed, a Bangladesh national and president of the Saipan Taxi Association and vice president of the United Workers Union, said it was an excellent forum because it enlightened them a lot about issues and it will pave a way of establishing more relations in a diversified culture.

Even before the forum started, panelists as well as the audience were informed that the discussion was not about the merits of federalization, but rather an insightful dialogue about the direct or indirect impact that it will have on local culture.

Discussions were based on literary materials written by Erla Zwingle and Wade Davis.

The forum is a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and awarded by the NMICH.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

September 10, 2008

To: Homesteaders

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Database of workers for military buildup in Guam being prepared

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A foreign workers group is creating a database of skilled workers on Saipan for possible employment in Guam when the construction begins for the military buildup there.

The United Workers Movement will host a recruitment event on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, from 1pm to 5pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater in Garapan. At the job fair, the organization will accept resumes and employment certifications from construction workers for submission to Guam contractors.

Local labor activist Irene Tantiado said the event was organized especially for construction workers who have recently lost, or are expecting to lose, their jobs due to the struggling economy in the Commonwealth.

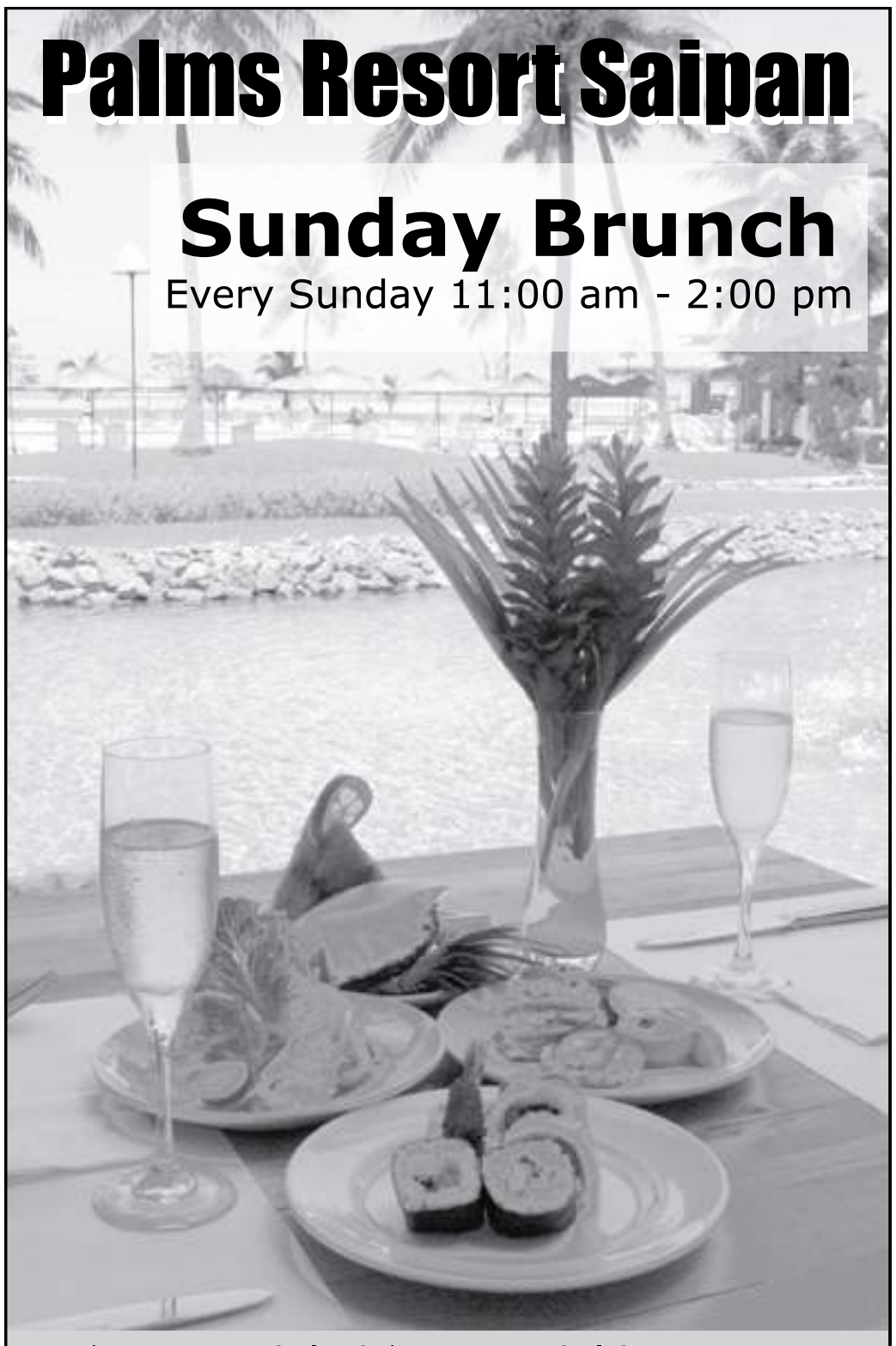
"There are lots of construction workers out there whose contracts are ending and may not be renewed, or who were affected by downsizing. We cannot assure them of jobs, but we can at least put them in contact with potential employers," said Tantiado.

She added that the job fair will benefit the Guam contractors, some of whom have already started recruiting workers from nearby countries like the Philippines to meet their expected need for skilled labor.

"It is more practical for them to hire from Saipan. It's closer to Guam and the workers are already familiar with the islands. Plus, they will get a chance to meet the applicants—something they cannot do if they hire a manpower agency, say, in the Philippines, to do the interviews for them," Tantiado said.

Guam is preparing for the relocation of thousands of U.S. armed forces personnel and their families from Okinawa, Japan. The effort will require a host of major construction projects to support it, such the building of new seaport infrastructure and housing. The construction boom is expected to happen in 2010.

Under a recently enacted immigration law, Guam and the Northern Marianas will be exempted from national caps on temporary worker visas through 2014.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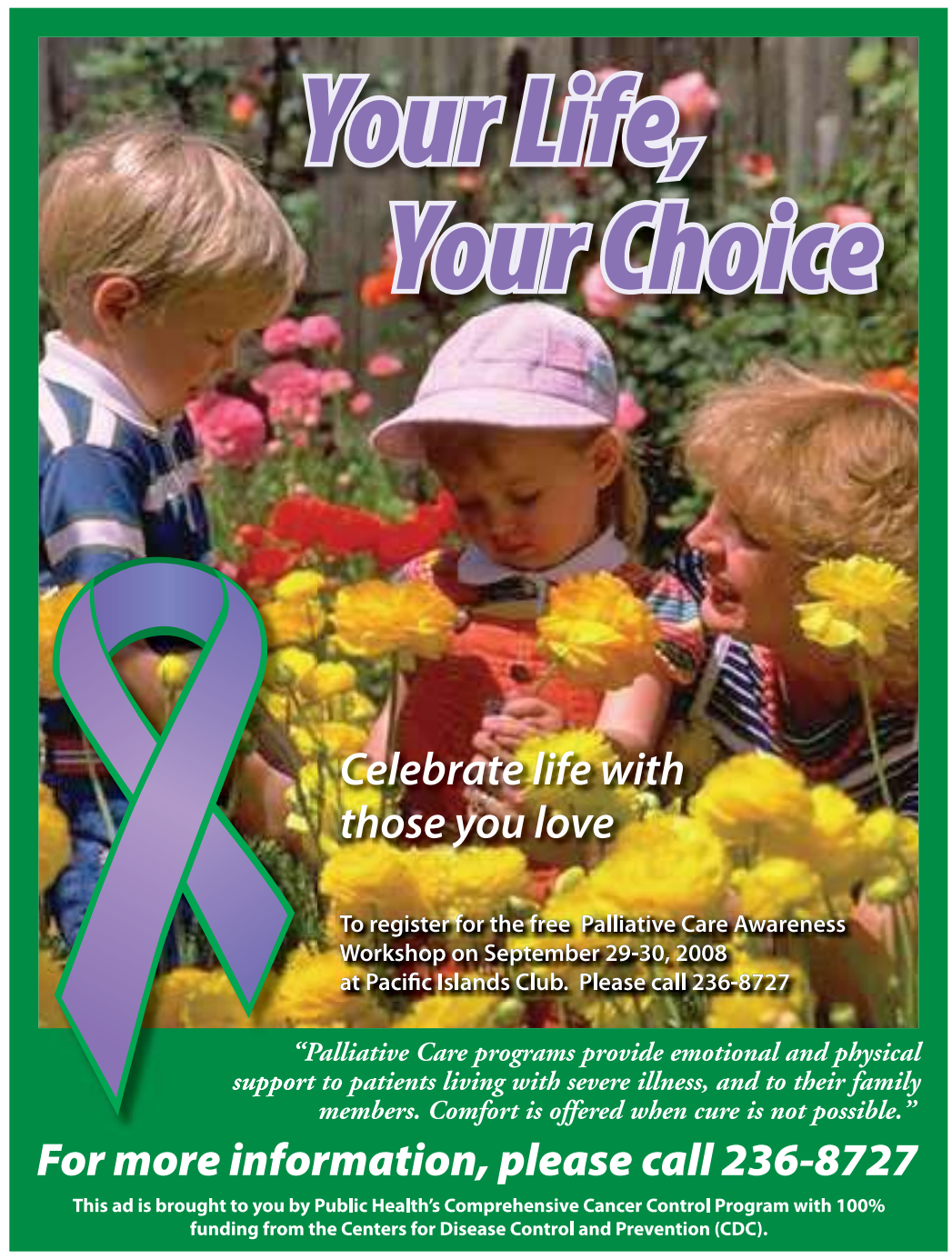
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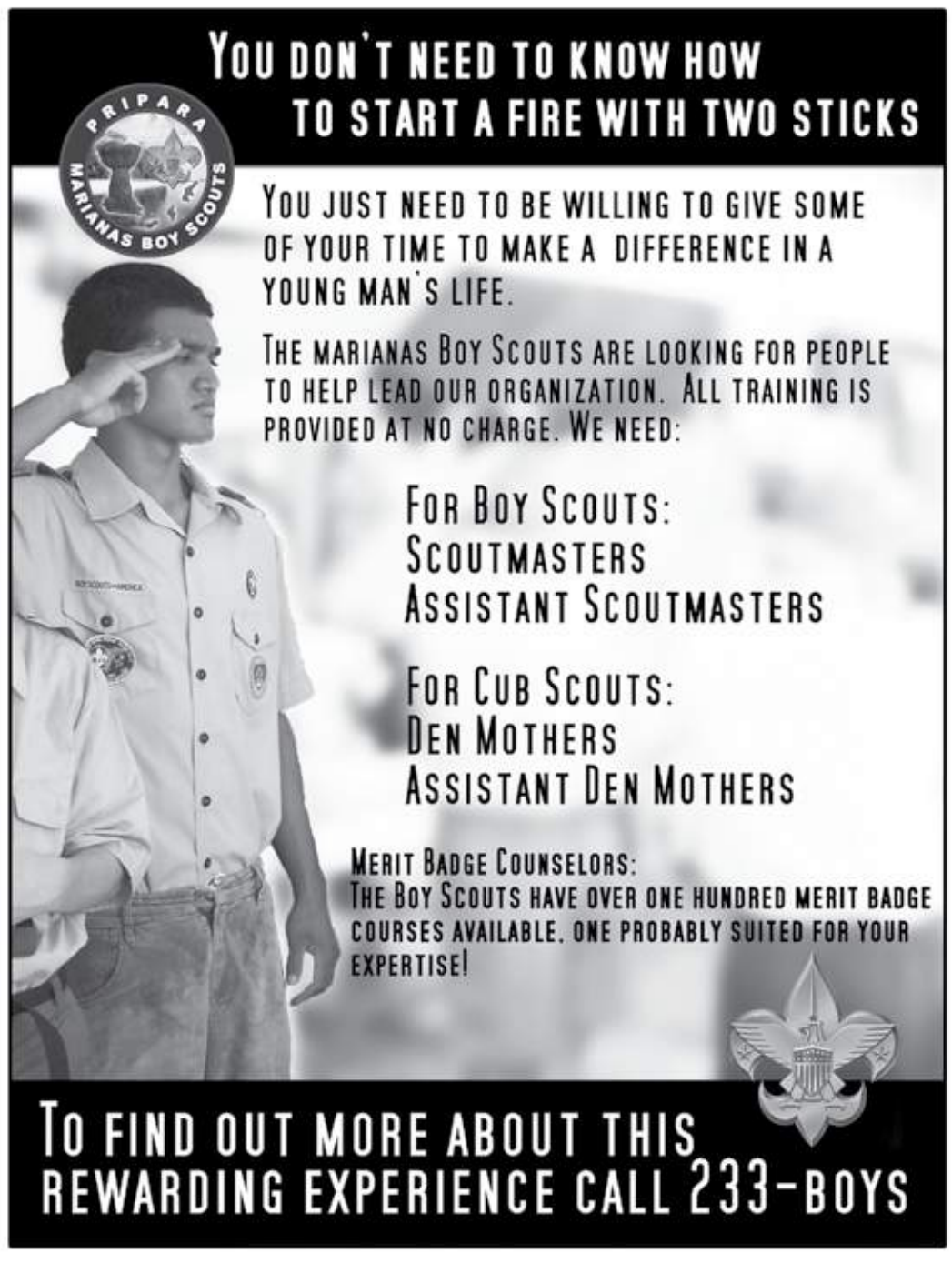
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Investors eye Rota casino plans

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—Three as of yet unidentified foreign investors are eying the early steps officials here are taking to develop a casino gaming industry, yet progress on that effort appears to have stalled for now as the local government awaits funding from Saipan.

"There are at least three investors that have already expressed their interest in a casino here," Diego Songao, chairman of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission said in a Wednesday interview. "As far as naming those three, I still need to see their actual proposal before I do that."

The prospective investors, said Songao, include firms from Japan and Korea.

Since Rota's leadership won approval from voters to let casinos open on the island, Songao added, the commission has begun crafting regulations for the industry to follow and interviewing consultants to help them put the rules into action. A draft regulation is already complete—based in part on the rules for casinos on Tinian—and the commission has started holding early talks on how to amend it.

"We want to put up a regulation that is amenable both to the people of Rota and the casino operators themselves," he said. "We're trying to make a strategy here that will include some of the interest from the investors themselves."

Yet progress on finalizing the regulations for the moment has stalled as the commission awaits the arrival of a $450,000 loan it received recently from Saipan's legislative delegation. The money will pay for the hiring of a consultant and related expenses.

"Everything is on hold right now," said Songao. "As soon as we have the money, we can hire a consultant and develop this with the investors. They need to see the regulations before we can do more."

Meanwhile, he added, none of the commissioners involved in the effort has received any payment for their work.

"None of the commission has been paid," he said. "We've contributed a lot of materials and things ourselves because we want to see this industry move."

Rota casino commission seeks $1M additional funding

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Rota Casino Gaming Commission is asking for a $1-million budget for fiscal year 2009. This comes on top of the $450,000 that Saipan recently "loaned" Rota for its new casino industry.

Diego Songao, chairman of the Rota gaming commission, said the agency needs at least $1 million in FY2009 for its startup operations.

"We realize that the CNMI is presently experiencing difficult financial problems, but we are hopeful that with the licensing of casino operation on Rota, the CNMI will also benefit from such industry," Songao wrote in a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

He said the money will pay for the salaries of a professional casino consultant, a legal counsel, an executive director, and staff members. It will also cover the costs of training, office space, travel, office equipment and supplies, professional consultation, and marketing, among other things.

Earlier this month, Fitial signed a bill appropriating $4.75 million of revenue from Saipan's gaming operations. The appropriation included $450,000 for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission, which Rota must repay to Saipan in one year.

Although prohibited by the CNMI Constitution, gambling became legal on Rota after an overwhelming majority of the island's voters approved a casino initiative in 2005.

Under the Rota casino law, there will be no restrictions on the total number of casino licenses that may be issued, or the number of casinos that a person or a group may own or operate on Rota.

The license application fee may cost up to $100,000 and an annual license fee may go up to $200,000 for the first license year. Casino operators will be charged a Rota gaming tax equivalent to 5 percent of the gross gaming revenue.

ILLUMINATE THE NIGHT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Members of the community vent their anger and frustration about power outages with a vigil during the peaceful CUC protest rally at the Garapan Fishing Base yesterday.

NEW

From Page 1

talks with wholesale businesses there to bring their crustacean commodity to market.

Opened in July with the help of the Northern Marianas College, the shrimp farm sits on a relatively isolated stretch of land surrounded by farms. Its most prominent feature is the long concrete tank, much like an above-ground swimming pool, where the shrimp are raised. Yet despite its high walls, staff recently had to cover the tank with screens to prevent their harvest from jumping over the side.

"We should have sent these shrimp to Beijing to compete in the Olympics," said Gus Maratita, general manager for the farm, known as Taga Diversified Products. "We used to find them sometimes really far from the tank. A lot of shrimp were jumping out every day."

The new barrier for the moment, however, appears to be keeping the farm's high vaulting stock in the tank but, as if to prove Maratita's honesty, one still managed to launch itself past him as the farm's daytime staffer raised a basket from its bottom to check their growth.

Jumping shrimp aside, the new farm has encountered at least one major challenge to its day-to-day operation. Like many businesses in the CNMI, the cost of electricity has hit the farm hard. But unlike some other businesses, shrimp farming requires a 24-hour power supply to keep the aeration pumps that maintain the tanks oxygen level going or the shrimp inside will die. Power bills, the farm's vice president, Vincent Hocog, said can range in upwards of $700 to $1,000 each month.

However, the farm could stand to see real profits once its first crop is finished growing and harvested for sale. Hocog and Maratita noted their company is already in talks with wholesale distributors in Guam, the nearest market to Rota, and the estimated 2,370 lbs. of shrimp they are hoping to sell could fetch a good price.

But for now, the new shrimp farmers are just hoping their first batch—which are already each four inches in length—will be ready as planned in December and once they restock the tank, they expect to complete a new crop once a month.

"With the economy the way it is, you need to think outside of the box, get outside your comfort zone and try something new," said Maratita. "That's what we're trying to do."

PETE

From Page 1

Tenorio previously sought a budget of $360,000 for his Washington and Saipan offices for the period between Oct. 1, 2008 and Jan. 2, 2009.

In a letter to legislative leaders, he asked that the Washington Representative's Office be given a separate budget. His request is in response to a plan by the House Ways and Means Committee to grant the Executive Branch a lump-sum appropriation. Under this plan, the governor will be free to decide how all government agencies, except the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, the Legislature, and the Judiciary, will be funded.

"It is critical that the WRO continue operations without fear of budgetary interruption until January when it ceases to exist," Tenorio said. "There is a multitude of work that needs to be completed before the premises in both D.C. and the Saipan District Office can be secured for closure. With just three months remaining until my staff vacate, there is still so much to do."

He said this work includes converting into digital form close to three decades of historical documents in the Washington office.

Tenorio was elected to serve as the CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. until January 2010. But the recently signed bill, which grants the Northern Marianas a delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives, will cut his term short by one year. The new delegate, to be elected in November, will take office on Jan. 3, 2009.

The Commonwealth expects to save $1 million a year from having a delegate to the U.S. Congress. This is equivalent to the annual budget of the resident representative's office. The federal government will pay for the expenses of the Northern Marianas delegate, including the delegate's salary which is currently at $169,300 a year.

CUC

From Page 1

government," Muna said. "We cannot lean on that. We really need to have everyone participate in this process."

PSS paid $1.6 million to CUC in July after the Finance Department became involved in the situation.

Muna said he is confident the government and PSS will follow through with their debts.

"Hopefully no one up at the Legislature thinks I can pay Aggreko without their money," he said.

Under the $6 million contract, CUC paid Aggreko $1.5 million to ship the generators, and they must pay $504,000 28 days after Sept. 12, when the generators were first turned on.

Muna said he hopes the two agencies pay the $3.4 million by the end of the month.

CUC is also cutting costs internally to save money. At a meeting yesterday, Muna spoke with senior level managers about scaling back overtime for CUC employees. With the power stabilized, workers within all the divisions—power generation, power distribution, water, and waste water—should not have to work as much, he said, adding that overtime should be reduced by 50 percent this week because of fewer outages. The utility company will focus on purchasing materials of the highest quality and only when necessary as well, he added.

Meanwhile, the three Power Plants and Aggreko generators were producing 42.7 megawatts yesterday; which more than covered the 41 megawatts needed to sufficiently power the island. This is the first time there has been reserve in several months.

Although there was plenty of power, a brief outage occurred in the early afternoon. Around 1:45pm, engine 8 at Power Plant 1 tripped, bringing down feeders 7 and 4. Within 10 minutes, crews were ready to bring the engine back up but had to secure the nearby water pumps first. The engine was ultimately running again 40 minutes later, Muna said.

"It's a lot better than six hours," he added.

On Tuesday, Gov. Benigno Fitial wrote a letter to Aggreko Sales Director Stephen Dunlop thanking him for the company's performance.

"There was a collective sign of relief on Saipan Friday evening, when CUC was able to virtually eliminate the rotating blackouts caused by its deteriorating generating equipment. And I hope that this power stability will continue," Fitial wrote in the letter.

Not all community members are satisfied with the current situation, though. A rally, seeking federal intervention into CUC, was planned for last night.

Muna said he respects the community members' right to protest.

"People have a right," he said. "No one here had any intention this is what we wanted to happen though. This is what we inherited. We've had these obstacles to overcome."

TIM

From Page 1

Joaquina Santos and James Santos.

After explaining some court proceeding procedures, the judge asked Villagomez why he wants to waive his right to a speedy trial.

The Lt. Governor, who was instructed to stand up in front of a podium, answered: "So I can adequately prepare my defense."

Villagomez appeared relax at the hearing. He was with one of his lawyers, Joey San Nicolas. Some of his family members and friends were in the courtroom.

In granting the request, Munson stated that he can't accommodate a January 2009 trial and instead reset it for March 23, 2009 at 9am.

When Munson called Joaquina Santos, Villagomez stood up and together with his wife Margaret and San Nicolas left the Horiguchi Building.

With respect to the Santos couple, both defendants said they need more time with their respective legal counsel in preparation for their defense in the case.

Attorney Ramon Quichocho is counsel for Joaquina Santos, while attorney Joaquin Torres is representing James Santos.

Torres also informed the court that assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley agreed to extend the deadline for James Santos to file pre-trial filing motions.

Munson granted James Santos' request and allowed him to file until Nov. 10, 2008.

Villagomez, James Santos, Joaquina Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted with conspiring to bilk CUC out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless chemical purchases for CUC.

Villagomez and the Santos couple pleaded not guilty. Guerrero signed a plea agreement and entered a guilty plea.

Hirshbein asks employers to follow-up applications

Department of Labor Director Barry Hirsbein yesterday encouraged employers to follow up their applications to hire alien workers so Labor can immediately determine if there are problems.

Hirshbein told *Saipan Tribune* that the Labor and Immigration Identification System (LIIDS) is currently scanning applications into the automation system that were filed on Sept. 12, 2008.

He said at Labor Processing Section they were reviewing those applications yesterday.

"We are caught up with all the pending applications," the director said.

He suggested all employers to check with Immigration to see if their applications are complete or deficient.

Employers, Hirshbein said, may also go to the Labor website at www.marianaslabor.net to check the deficiency and denial listings.

"If your applications are not in the pending or deficient or denial then you should contact us so we can see what the problem is with the particular application," he pointed out.

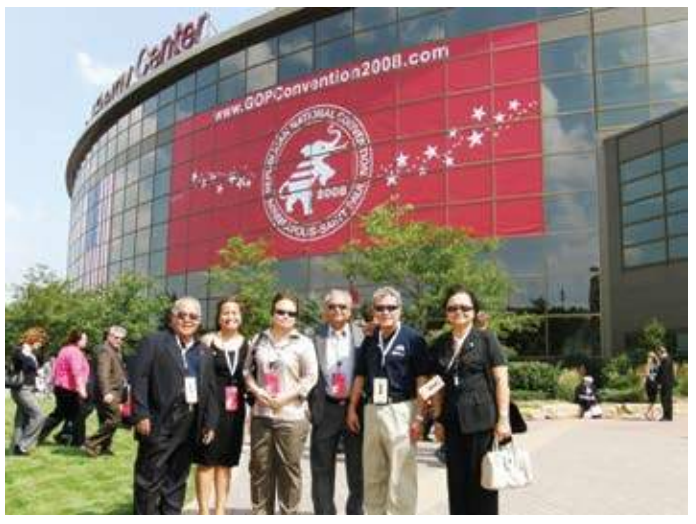
The director said it is possible that some applications can be found in the automation system, but have not yet been reviewed.

"It is a very small number. But we would like to hear from employers if your application is not been reviewed and approved or denied," Hirshbein added. ***(Ferdie Dela Torre)***

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

The CNMI GOP Delegates stand in front of the Xcel Energy Center, site of the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul. From left, Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio, MaryLou S. Ada, Frances Borja, Roman Tudela, Representative Joseph C. Reyes, and Ana S. Teregeyo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Man gets 15 months jail term for 'ice' possession

The Superior Court has imposed a 15-month jail term on a man who was arrested last year on charges he was selling crystal methamphetamine or "ice."

Associate Judge David Wiseman on Tuesday sentenced Vicente Q. Falig to five years in prison, all suspended except for 15 months, for possession of a controlled substance.

Wiseman gave Falig credit for the time he already served in jail from Dec. 29, 2007 to Jan. 9, 2008.

The judge ordered the defendant to start serving the jail term at the Department of Corrections on Oct. 14, 2008 at 10am.

After completing the jail term, the defendant will be placed on five years of supervised probation.

Wiseman required Falig to pay a $2,000 fine and $100 court assessment fee plus probation fee.

The judge also ordered the defendant to perform 200 hours of community work service.

In January 2008, the Attorney General's Office charged Falig with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance.

He and counsel assistant public defender Janet King signed a plea agreement with the government represented by assistant attorney general Rebecca Miller Warfield.

Falig pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance. The remaining charges were dismissed.

According to the plea agreement's factual basis, on Aug. 23 and 24, 2007, on Saipan the defendant unlawfully possessed crystal methamphetamine.

Police Officer Norman S. Rasiang stated in his report that their "cooperating source" disclosed to members of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Drug Task Force on Aug. 22, 2007, that Falig is active in selling "ice" in Tanapag.

Rasiang said using the CS, Drug Task Force members were able to purchase $200 and $100 worth of "ice" from Falig on Aug. 23 and 24, 2007, respectively. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-probation officer gets 30 months in jail for extortion

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday slapped a 30-month jail term on a former CNMI probation officer who, while then on duty, extorted money from numerous probationers.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered that after release from imprisonment, Robin Norita Sablan will be placed on three years of supervised release.

Sablan, 30, was given credit for the time he already served in jail.

Munson ordered the defendant to pay a total of $7,040 in restitution to 12 victims: Maisar Tmakiung-Udui, $1,500; Yong Xue Cui, $985; Eduardo Angeles, $915; Agapito Cantos, $850; Sun Ji, $850; Ham Haro, $740; Nina Rivera, $660; Ronie Sto. Domingo, $290; Allan Hernandez, $100; Aguinaldo Tesado, $50; Jay G. Adarve, $50; and Bonifacio Rivera, $50.

During the probationary period, Sablan will be required to perform 200 hours of community work service under the direction of the U.S. Probation Office.

The defendant will also be required to participate in a program approved by the U.S. Probation Office for substance abuse. The program may include testing to determine whether he has reverted to drug use.

He will be prohibited, among other conditions, from entering poker rooms or engaging in gambling activities.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler recommended a 36-month jail term and a maximum term of supervised release. Attorney Joey San Nicolas, counsel for Sablan, recommended for the lowest end of the sentencing guidelines or for a term of 30 months.

The U.S. Attorney's Office filed last April an information charging the defendant with one count of extortion under color of official act.

Sablan, however, immediately waived the indictment and entered a guilty plea. He was then released on bail.

According to court documents, from Sept. 18, 2004 to March 20, 2006 Sablan, while employed as an assistant probation officer by the Commonwealth Adult Probation, demanded and received money from defendants under his supervision in return for promises of favorable official action with respect to said defendants' terms of probation.

The defendant resigned as probation officer with the Office of Adult Probation when the Office of Public Auditor and the Attorney General's Investigation Unit placed him under investigation on the early part of 2006.

Sablan reportedly confessed receiving payments from 11 probationers and issuing fake receipts during his tenure as probation officer. He claimed he used the money to support his gambling and financial problems.

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Saipan - Guam Office: 888-8888 I www.iconnectsaipan.com

Local doctor helping TB patients in Chuuk

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brostrom

Public Health medical director Richard Brostrom has been traveling to Chuuk a few days each month to help stop the spread of tuberculosis among the island's population.

Currently, Brostrom has been helping in the treatment of five girls and one mother who have drug-resistant TB on the island. Four Chuukese with drug-resistant TB died this year alone, he said.

"We can't turn our backs," he said. "This is a treatable disease."

TB is an infectious disease that usually attacks the lungs, although it can also affect other organ systems.

The Chuuk government asked for assistance from the Centers for Disease Control in the early part of the summer, Brostrom said.

When someone develops drug resistant TB, he said the cost of treatment increases significantly.

"You can see how this has a big impact on the local economy," he said.

Chuuk has many factors working against it as the island's people try to overcome the disease, said Brostrom who shared his experiences at Tuesday's Rotary Club meeting.

"Chuuk is broken," he said. "The infrastructure is broken."

Chuuk is not the only place susceptible to the disease, though. There are factors that make areas in the Pacific more prone to the disease, he said.

People tend to live in close quarters and take part in large family gatherings, so if one person is sick, everyone can get sick, he said. Imported labor workers also tend to bring the disease over from their home country. When a patient does seek care, it is usually late in the process.

Some jurisdictions in the Pacific have passed laws in an effort to stop TB from entering. In Guam, for example, people who have traveled to Chuuk for more than six days must be quarantined, something Brostrom said he disagrees with.

"It's absurd," he said. "It's crazy. Trying to build a moat is ineffective."

The best way to protect one's population is to help, he said.

"The CNMI stands alone in extending resources," he added.

The five girls, ages 7, 11, 13, 15, and 16, are a month into their six months of isolation treatment. The Australian Nurses Council is providing a tutor for the girls, but they are still fighting boredom, Brostrom said.

He is seeking donations to give to the girls, including age-appropriate DVDs, educational videos, and toys and games.

Recidivist arrested anew

Diego Salas Mundo, reportedly the CNMI's record-holder for having the longest criminal history, was arrested again yesterday in Susupe.

This time, the 47-year-old Mundo allegedly stole $50 cash through deception and a truck's battery worth $80 belonging to an apartment owner.

At the hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo set Mundo's bail at $1,000 cash, as the court had earlier imposed.

Preliminary hearing was set for Sept. 24.

Detective Abraham Villagomez stated in his report that preliminary police's investigation showed that on Aug. 26 or 27, 2008, Mundo called Luis Camacho and told him that the M-Camacho Apartment in Garapan had no water.

Mundo asked $50 from Camacho, supposedly for a water company to fill up the water tank at the apartment.

Villagomez said it was discovered that the defendant never used the $50 to fill the water tank after one of the tenants complained to Camacho that there was no water supply that night.

Later, Mundo moved out of the apartment without notifying Camacho. He also failed to return the keys to the apartment.

Villagomez said Camacho was also surprised when he opened the hood of his truck and discovered that the battery was no longer there.

Court records show that Mundo has 13 separate convictions and 22 criminal cases on top of numerous violations of court orders and probation.

Last April he was arrested for harassing businesses and their customers. At the time, he was under the influence of alcohol.

In February 2007, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Mundo to two years in prison.

Wiseman said that in his sentencing order in a 2001 criminal case, he noted that Mundo's release from jail only results in him committing more crimes and continuously placing members of the society in danger. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Award-winning columnist to visit Saipan next month

As part of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities for October 2008, the Family Violence Task Force is sponsoring several special presentations on Saipan by renowned columnist Renee Mitchell.

Mitchell will be on island during the week of Oct. 5-9, 2008, in conjunction with the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities, which has adopted the theme "Empowering the Community for Change."

While Mitchell is in the Commonwealth she will be speaking with different community groups to inspire and empower us all to help victims of domestic violence in our community.

Mitchell is an award-winning columnist for *The Oregonian*, Oregon's leading newspaper. In 2005, she was nominated for the Pultizer Prize for commentary. Mitchell uses storytelling, performing poetry, and her theatrical expertise to empower, humor, entertain, inform, inspire, and motivate her audience. She has shared the stage with feminist author Bell Hooks, actor Danny Glover, jazz pianist Tom Grant, and hip-hop duo Siren's Echo. www.reneemitchellspeaks.com

For more information about Mitchell's visit next month, call Pat Filig at the Domestic Violence Intervention Center at 664-4583. ***(PR)***

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MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Friday, September 19, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM and Saturday, September 20, 2008 beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - Flash Reports – July/August 2008
  - Total Fund & Manager Universe Performance Comparisons
  - Consulting Group Review
  - Investment Related Fees – Updated
  - IPS Revisions
  - Investment Manager Review Schedules
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - Status Update – Home Loan Program
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – June/July 2008
  - FY 2008 Reprogramming Review and Adoption
  - FY 2009 Budget Review and Adoption
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - Status Update – Home Loan Foreclosures
  - APLE 501

III CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Office Space Matters
- Administrative Issues

IV OLD BUSINESS
- Tinian Public Market
- By-laws Review and Amendment

V NEW BUSINESS
- Employment/Independent Contracts
- FY 2009-2010 Independent Audit RFP
- IFEBP: International & Emerging Markets
- APAFS: 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference
- Website Review and Selection
- HLI 16-18

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS

VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

USS *Rentz* crew enjoy liberty week on Saipan

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-five crewmembers from the USS *Rentz* spent yesterday cleaning up and landscaping Sugar King Park.

"This our way of saying thank you for the hospitality and giving something back to the community," said USS *Rentz* Cmdr. Dave Glenister. "It can be a big change for a city when a large army of people come to town."

Despite the rain, the crewmembers were able to scrape moss, and use weed eaters and machetes to landscape the park, he said.

"This site was chosen to do landscaping and try to get the park nice enough so people can actually use it as a park," Glenister added.

He said the 215 crewmembers are spending their liberty week on island enjoying snorkeling, shopping, and playing golf.

"[Golf] is always very popular," he added.

Many of the members, including Glenister, enjoy the cultural aspect Saipan offers and will spend time visiting museums, he said.

During lunch yesterday, Glenister and Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela presented each other with plaques of appreciation.

"We're very happy to be here," the commander said. "It's nice to see a little bit of America. The crew is very grateful."

The USS *Rentz* is based in San Diego, Calif., and named after World War II Navy Chaplain George S. Rentz.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Crewmembers from the USS *Rentz* pose for a photo with Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela and his staff after participating in a community service project at the Sugar King Park in Garapan yesterday.

Club 200 tickets on sale now

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ticket sales for the Red Cross's 20th annual Club 200 event are underway.

This year's event, slated for Oct. 25 from 5pm to 10pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, will have a Halloween theme.

"We've got some great ideas in store: spider webs, a haunted house, just kind of fun things," said John Hirsh, executive director for CNMI's Red Cross Chapter.

The $100 per person tickets can be bought at the Red Cross office up until 12pm on Oct. 25 or at the door. A "web of ticket sellers" is also selling tickets through the island.

Guests can dress up for the event, although they are not required to do so, Hirsh said.

There will be a costume contest and musician Willie K from Hawaii will perform.

The Red Cross will raffle off $20,000 at the event, an increase of $5,000 from last year's raffle, to coincide with the 20th anniversary.

"We know people could really use that money in these hard economic times," Hirsh said.

Ultimately, Hirsh said, he hopes people remember the event is for a good cause.

"This is our signature fundraiser," he said. "It's a critical part of our ability to operate the Red Cross in our community. The American Red Cross doesn't pay us, we have to pay them to be a part of the network."

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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PUBLIC NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
   a. July 29, 2008
   b. August 1, 2008

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
1. Financial Report – CDA

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
1. Development Corporation Division
   a. Status of Pending Items
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
   a. Status of the DBD Funds
3. Admin. Matters/Personnel & Budget
   a. Administration's Report
4. QC Program/Economic Dev. Activities
   a. Ratification of Board Res. 2008-002
   b. Compliance Issues

V. OLD BUSINESS
1. Pacific Gardenia Hotel – Update
2. Sunset Villa – Update
3. CUC

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Alternative Energy

VII. OTHER MATTERS
1. Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference
2. IEDC Annual Conference – The Next Billion: Mobility, Flexibility, Agility, Livability

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

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PTI is now 'GETS' compliant

The Government Emergency Telecommunications Service program, which provides high-ranking government personnel and first-time emergency responders immediate priority access for calls during an emergency crisis situation, is now accessible in the CNMI.

GETS is a White House directed emergency phone service provided by a Division of the Department of Homeland Security and only applies to a certain group of people who are directly linked to national security or emergency preparedness missions. If one meets the eligibility requirements, a phone card is issued along with an access number and a pin code which is required to log on to the system and avail of the service for a minimal charge.

John Hirsh, Executive Director for the NMI Red Cross Chapter, explains how he was able to utilize the GETS card prior to being mobilized to Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After numerous, unsuccessful attempts to reach the New Orleans Red Cross Chapter, he placed a call using the access number and it immediately patched his call through and was able to reach his colleague.

"The system was able to prioritize my call and somehow bypass all the disrupted services," added Hirsh.

PTI remains committed in providing the CNMI with reliable communication and at the same time recognizes the importance and benefits of the GETS program for the community. This commitment has translated into countless hours of manpower just to get the system in compliance. There are daily reporting requirements and operational measurements that must be fulfilled in order to be designated "compliant."

PTI's Network Service Manager Jim Calderwood led the project.

"Although GETS applies to only a selected group, PTI can assure the CNMI that immediate communication will be available in times of calamity or distress, where access to phone lines are limited or disrupted," said Kathryn Barry, Regional Marketing Manager of PTI. "CNMI Disaster Preparedness Month reminds us all the importance of being ready in the event of an emergency," she added.

For more information, you may log on to http://www.gets.ncs.gov or call 682-4PTI. ***(PTI)***

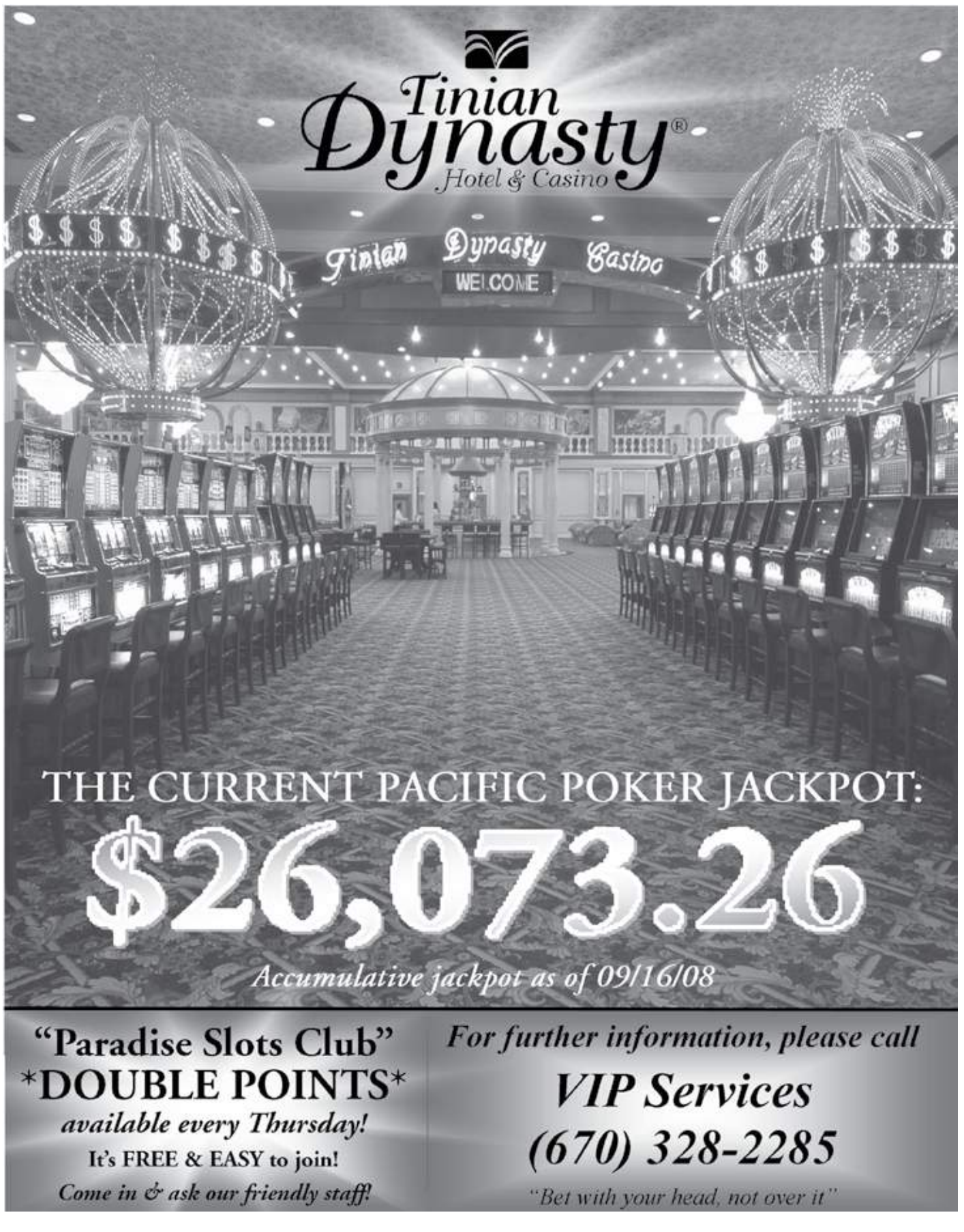
11 sites on Saipan red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised red flags on 11 locations on Saipan after samples collected from the sites contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

The sites red-flagged by DEQ are: Tanapag Meeting Hall; Central Repair Shop; DPW Channel Bridge; South Puerto Rico Dump; American Memorial Park; Hafadai Beach Hotel; Hafadai Drainage; Garapan Fishing Dock; Garapan Beach Drainage; Sugar Dock; and CK District #2 Drainage.

To adequately address public health concerns, DEQ therefore has given the locations a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Wednesday. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns. ***(DEQ)***



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 18, 2000

Gov't disagrees with CUC billing

Finance officials will have to meet with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to reach a settlement over unpaid utility bills after they found "discrepancies" between what CUC is demanding and what the government actually owes. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has instructed Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen to discuss the matter following a "hastily-called" meeting last week on the heels of CUC's threat to cut off power to several government offices.

Teno signs election reform law

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed legislation reforming "archaic" elections laws in the CNMI to give ample time to the Board of Elections for its implementation ahead of next year's general polls. But he prodded lawmakers to correct a major provision regarding residency requirement for eligibility to vote on the islands for fear of future constitutional challenge. Public Law 12-18 or the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" updates existing statute passed in 1977 governing such political exercise aimed at ensuring smooth polling system here.

Telesource gets $17-M Tinian airport rehab contract

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has formally decided to award the contract for the construction of the new $17-million West Tinian International Airport runway to Telesource CNMI, Inc., which offered the lowest bid among six companies that proposed to carry out the project. The Federal Aviation Administration has recently concurred with the ports authority's decision to award the contract for the project to Telesource at $16.9 million for the 8,600-linear-foot Tinian airport runway.

September 18, 2001

NMI unemployment rate seen to skyrocket

Unemployment rate in the Northern Marianas is anticipated to rise as businesses from all economic sectors in the Commonwealth crumble due to the projected mammoth drop in air travel. Many fearful passengers were expected to refrain from flying in the coming weeks and even months following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last week.

NMI tourism faces gloomier days

Of the five international flights that arrived yesterday morning at the CNMI airport, only nine passengers were tourists. In that manner did the first ripples of the terror attacks in the US mainland reach the distant shores of the Northern Marianas, with officials from the government and private sector now predicting a fall in the tourism industry by as much as 40 percent in the next three months.

Attacks cripple business sector

"Everything will die!" Richard Pierce, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, was referring to practically all business sectors in the CNMI, including what have been considered as the backbones of the local economy—garment and tourism industries. Although the Chamber had expressed support to any United States' action in connection with the tragedies in New York and Washington last week, Pierce said the ailing economy will plummet deeper once the nation goes into war. He described the gravity of the impact as "exponential" and "rippling."

September 18, 2002

Drive on to make NMI even more beautiful

"We have a product and it's beautiful but we really need to work on making this product much better." With these words, Gov. Juan N. Babauta set the tone and background for his meeting with the Marianas Visitors Authority on Monday, as the administration and the agency explored ways of ratcheting up the number of tourist arrivals in the Commonwealth.

PSS wants contracting authority over its CIPs

The State Board of Education is seeking to gain control over both the contracting and expenditure aspects of school constructions so it could play a more direct and active role in overseeing the Public School System's Capital Improvement Projects. Members of the BOE, led by acting Chair Roman C. Benavente, yesterday adopted a resolution that underscored the need for PSS to hold both the contracting and expenditure authorities over all future school projects.

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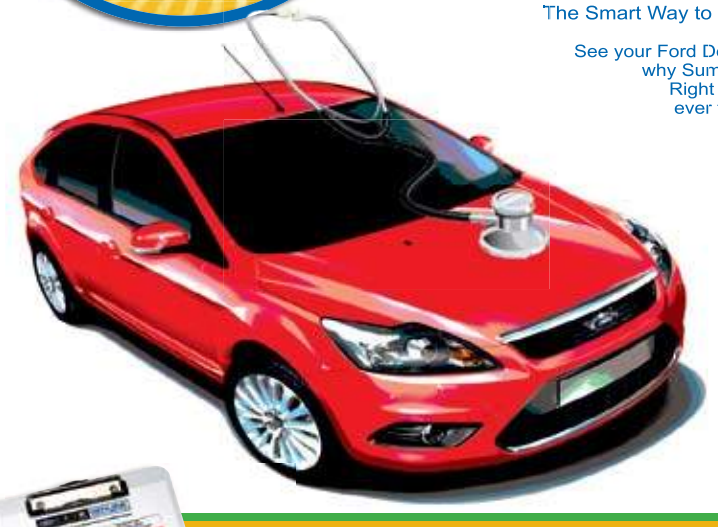

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The Lehman lesson

The collapse of Lehman Brothers, the venerable Wall Street investment bank, and the prospect that it could be followed by insurance giant AIG bring new uncertainties and new dangers to an already shaky global financial system. According to Lehman's freshly filed bankruptcy papers, the company owes a staggering $613 billion to 100,000 creditors all over the world, including bondholders who are owed $155 billion. Now all of these companies and individuals will have to settle for whatever they can get once a court is done supervising the sale of Lehman's assets, which are made up in large part of dodgy mortgages. Thus will Lehman's downfall spread financial loss and psychological pain around the globe, shrinking credit and crimping the capacity of both the U.S. and global economies to grow. Fear of those effects drove the stock market down more than 500 points Monday.

Nevertheless, the U.S. government was right to let Lehman tank. Potential buyers for the firm wanted the Federal Reserve to grease the transaction by taking Lehman's bad loans onto its balance sheet—much as it did when a much smaller investment bank, Bear Stearns, ran into trouble in March. Both Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson refused. Perhaps this was because of real differences between the two situations; Bear Stearns' collapse was relatively sudden and potentially shocking to the financial system, whereas Lehman's death has been foretold for months, giving investors more time to adapt and prepare. Or perhaps the nation's economic policymakers, having already bailed out Bear Stearns and mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, simply chose Lehman to make the point that the government can't rescue everyone. Either way, we think they made the right call. The long list of bailout candidates, headed at the moment by AIG, confirms that policymakers were going to have to send this signal sooner or later. Merrill Lynch, thought to be the next target of the bears, seems to have gotten the message, accepting a merger offer from the better-capitalized Bank of America. Merrill's behavior contrasts starkly with that of Lehman, which tried to survive on its own for months—until it was too late.

As we have said in previous editorials, federal bailouts can be justified, but only when the benefits to the financial system as a whole outweigh the potential costs—as measured both in direct taxpayer expense and in "moral hazard," which is an economist's name for the risks companies take on when they think government will shield them from negative consequences. We have to hope that policymakers got that cost-benefit analysis right on Lehman; one lesson of the last year is that no one has a certain template to guide such decisions. Wall Street massively overcommitted to unwise investments. Undoing all of those mistakes will take time and cost billions of dollars—on top of what investors and consumers have already lost. But the only thing worse than paying those costs would be pretending that they can be avoided.

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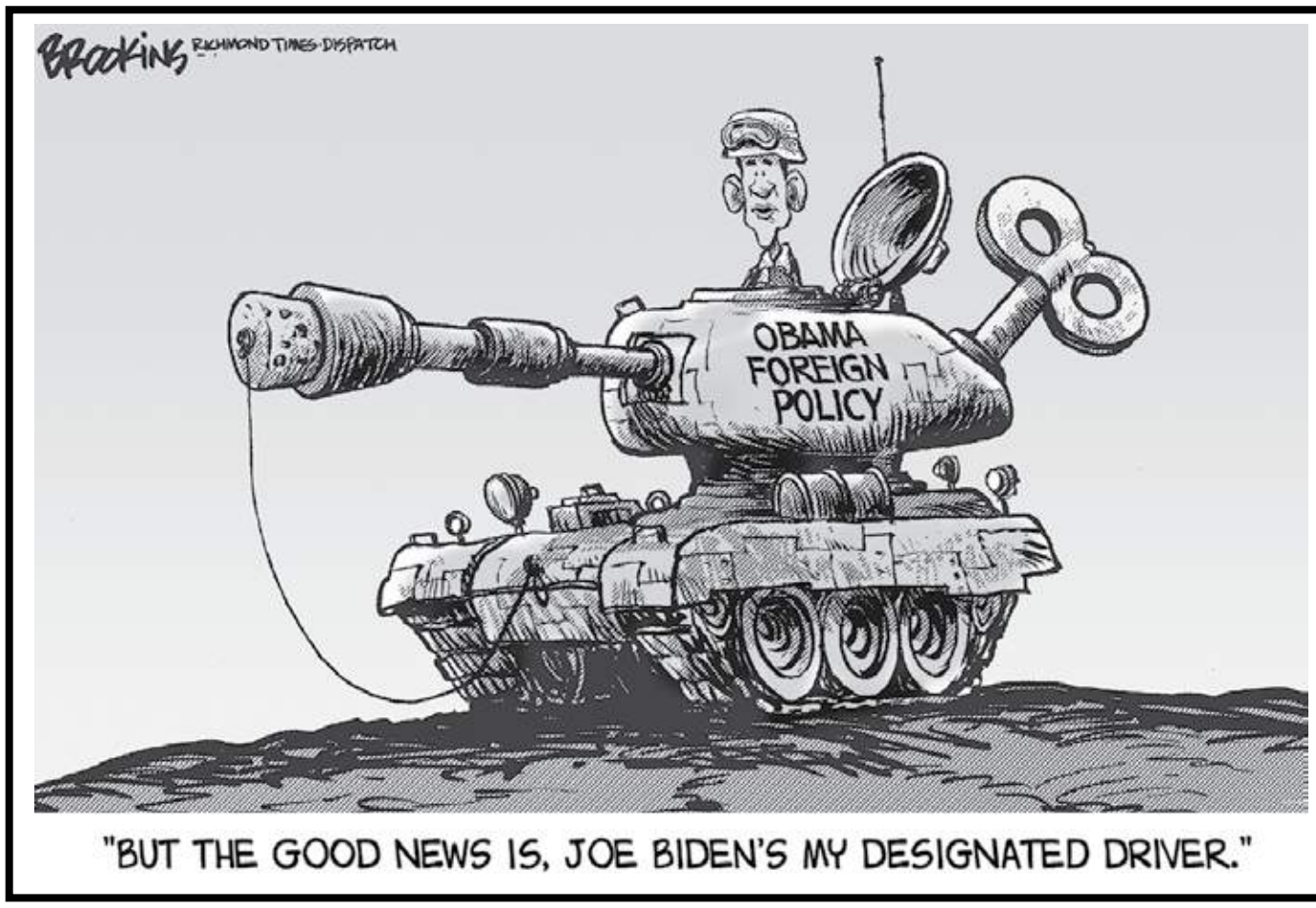


Dark times for CUC

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Over the past several months, we have had plenty of time to contemplate the gradual deterioration of our electric utility service, and the situation we're experiencing at this time. Here are some viewpoints that have been expressed by people to help shed some light on why we are regularly left in the dark. As you read through them, decide for yourself which one makes the most sense.

Rosy view: We are in our current situation because unforeseeable circumstances and uncontrollable events occurred that were beyond the ability of competent management to anticipate or avoid. However, everyone is doing their best to cope with and improve the situation with limited resources. We should be grateful that we have concerned leadership and dedicated workers who are doing their best during difficult times and trying to find solutions as quickly as possible. *(If you showed these individuals a glass that has water filled to its midpoint, and asked if the glass is half-empty or half-full, they will tell you that the water is actually overflowing because your expectations are too high, and the water was put in a glass that is too large. You should be grateful that you at least have some water because there are many other places that are worst off, and people who are dying of thirst – so stop your whining.)*

Rational view: The engines are old and have deteriorated because of normal wear and tear. Regular maintenance could have extended their life a little, but they would have eventually worn down. World oil prices, and the difficulty of getting parts have contributed to our high utility rates and regular outages. Even though management should have been able to anticipate some of these problems, CUC is doing their best with limited resources. *(These individuals will tell you that the glass is half full, and there is room for even more water.)*

Realistic view: Our current situation is the result of years of neglect, incompetence, and mismanagement. There were some uncontrollable events, but competent leadership should have anticipated the future impact and made decisions to avoid it. If the engines were properly maintained, we wouldn't be experiencing these problems and paying utility rates that are four times as high as the U.S. national average. Poor management decisions and sole sourced contracts with incompetent companies have contributed to the deterioration of CUC and created a situation where privatization is the best solution to keep the utility company going and to reduce the rates. *(To these individuals, the glass is half empty, and it is probably because there is a leak in the glass and it needs to be fixed.)*

Suspicious view: Conspiring individuals planned this situation and are using current events (i.e. rising fuel costs and malfunctioning engines) as a rationale to carry out their greedy and nefarious intent on an unsuspecting public. Their purpose is to manipulate the public so that they will not only accept, but also demand the solution presented by the architects of this plan because it will appear to be the best choice among several options. Since all confidence has been lost that CUC can properly maintain engines, the people will insist that an outside firm take over operations. Of course, the bidding process will be manipulated so that the chosen firm is the one that best financially benefits the perpetrators of this scheme. *(If you ask these individuals about the glass of water, they will tell you that it depends on who filled the glass.)*

You might have given CUC some benefit of the doubt in the beginning, but as more stories, rumors, and hearsay made their rounds, your view probably changed and many have even contemplated the "suspicious view." However, without hard evidence and investigation, one might be considered a cynic to believe that our elected leaders and those who are given public trust would be so self-serving.

Last Friday in the *Saipan Tribune*, there was an interesting letter to the editor from a former CUC employee. Mr. Frederick Prosser's letter adds more credence to the "suspicious view" and it points out that there has been a plan, or hidden agenda for CUC all along. Prosser stated, "This whole mess was very well planned and carried out" by CUC insiders and "several very influential men working with them."

Their plan, according to Prosser, was to run the power plant into the ground in order to open the doors for privatization, and make a lot of money for themselves. This was to be accomplished through three key decisions made at CUC: First, change the fuel from heavy oil to diesel; second, remove electronic reclosures from the power distribution system so if there is a problem with any part of the distribution system, it will trip the power plant off line and cause an "island-wide power outage"; and third, use non-treated water to cool engines so that it will eventually degrade the radiator's ability to keep the engines cool and performing at maximum capacity. Now that those three decisions have been carried out, Prosser poses a very good question: "Who made these decisions?"

If individuals did carry out a ruinous plan for CUC for their own greedy intention, there should be some accountability, but do you think it will be investigated and prosecuted locally? Nothing will be done as long as the AG's legal beagles continue to act like the administration's lap dogs, rather than the public's attack dogs. It will require a federal investigation to get to the bottom of this affair, and ensure that the plan is not carried out. Of course, the guilty parties will do everything within their powers to keep those feds from snooping around in THEIR business. If Mr. Prosser's statements are accurate, this mess is bigger than most of us might have considered, and dark times have truly come upon CUC, and us.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

In total agreement

Dear Mr. Ambrose Bennett

I totally agree with you about this notion of common sense, I really admired your attitude about it! For one you, sounded as if you've earned for yourself a doctorate degree of Sociology of Common Sense, it there is any.

I have been getting calls from a lot of those named brothers asking me to respond to your so called common sense views, hence this letter. Before I begin, please understand more than realize that I honestly respect your rights to your own opinion. Now here is my own opinion about what I gather as to what you would like to call, "common sense."

Common sense tells me that for one to preach intensely about common sense, precludes that people in the CNMI lacks the wisdom of common sense. Cultural revolution tells me that what is common sense in the States, are many a time, just *komun sense* in the CNMI. No offense bro. For example, it is common sense in the States to certain degree in terms of freedom of the press, but in the CNMI, that would be *komun sense* since here in our islands; it is bad attitude for people to stir their spoon in somebody's coffee. If one does, many time in our history resulted in riots by amongst the village people, between what district, and from where one comes from. And you see Mr. Bennett, that's what makes our CNMI so uniquely beautiful. I apologize to you sir, but this is just our nature. Welcome to the CNMI gentleman.

On the other hand, what prompted me to write to you via the editorial, is the way you're trying to manipulate the delegate election. There is nothing wrong with that, but let me explain the difference between common sense and *komun sense* about this delegate race in terms of our cultural sovereignty. You said that it is common sense that it is not important about the experience and educational acumen of the nine candidates running, and that they only need to tell us how they would do their job, that in itself, is the common sense. Well, to me that would be *komun sense* sir! Why? Because that will be the simplest test for the candidates. They can easily just answer you with "elect me," that's how they will do their jobs. That's *komun sense*! Talk can be cheap. Rather, and assurance is an insurance all to itself. In a contest like the delegate race, talk of political generalities are expected and candidates tend to naturally render only mere utterances of its like. So instead, I would ask for a strong assurance that can come only from the resourcefulness of an experience, on top of educational acumen…their insight and perspicacity. Common sense intelligent voters should look out for these traits.

During the past 50 years of my life, I have never filled out an employment application form that asked me how I would get the job done. Instead, they would ask for my previous experiences, educational credentials, references, and what would be my objective in parallel relationship to positions that I am applying for. Educational acumen and actual resourceful experience are key factors that give a strong assurance about any of the nine candidates that are vying (applying) for the coveted delegate seat (job). Common sense example is like when one is searching for a good automotive mechanic, he would look for one that graduated from an accredited institute of technology and is working in a reputable auto shop. Not a sidewalk push the car/jump-start mechanic. Voters I urge you to be intelligent voters. Please look into the nine candidates and strongly consider the one that possesses the best educational credentials, references, community standing, integrity, proven tract record, non-alcoholic, non drug-addict, non-smokers of tobacco or marijuana, good financial standing, husband of one wife, conscious of the needs of his own and that of his household, places of travel, duration of employment per employer, no criminal record or report, agreeable to disagree, presentable, serious thinker, God-fearing, compassionate, admired, stand alone, and steadfast, etc. etc., the one that possesses the most resourceful experience. That is the assurance that we look forward to. That is the assurance that implies one can best do the job for us in congress. *Cha'mu fan e'e'kunguk taotao ni mampos bula para hu sangan! Maulek-lekna ha' I fatkilo, lao fotmat.* (This adage is derived from the Chamorro/Refaluwasch archive of Proverbs) Again Mr. Bennett, welcome to the CNMI! The only time I talked too much and the people of the CNMI still listen, is when I am announcing on the radio. After that, it is different!

Although Juan Tudela Lizama is not my cousin, my intelligence is indicating to me that I have found the candidate that I will vote for. The candidate that gives me the strongest assurance that he will protect the interest of my children. You know, I now only vote for my children first, (our children), then for our government, and for you and me. Taking strongly into consideration his educational acumen, and the most resourcefulness of his experience (lawyer/judge) there is trust about Juan Tudela Lizama.

Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan
Dandan

Common sense tells me that for one to preach intensely about common sense, precludes that people in the CNMI *lacks the wisdom of common sense. Cultural revolution tells me that what is common sense in the States, are many a time, just komun sense in the* CNMI. *No offense bro. For example, it is common sense in the States to certain degree in terms of freedom of the press, but in the* CNMI, *that would be komun sense since here in our islands; it is bad attitude for people to stir their spoon in somebody's coffee. If one does, many time in our history resulted in riots by amongst the village people, between what district, and from where one comes from. And you see* Mr. Bennett, *that's what makes our* CNMI *so uniquely beautiful. I apologize to you sir, but this is just our nature. Welcome to the* CNMI *gentleman.*

Sales hype

It is pretty well known that PEW is willing to spend a lot of money to promote their proposed Bush Legacy Monument encompassing the northernmost three islands of the CNMI and 115,000 square miles of the surrounding ocean. They are willing to spend tens of thousands via renting office space, hiring employees locally, paying a Guam resident to prepare an economic study favorable to their cause, and paying several local folks directly and indirectly for other "projects." More tens of thousands have been spent paying large sums for sales literature and even buying out issues of local magazines if they print favorable articles. They are willing to up the ante to spending hundreds of thousands to sell this idea by providing free ocean-going boat rides to some connected folks to "tour" the affected areas. Who knows who else is being paid in other ways locally and in far off Washington, D.C.

The latest spending spree involves paying a Guam-based company, Q Market Research, to conduct a sales job thinly disguised as a "phone survey" with Saipan residents as the target. By using leading questions, ambiguous questions, and questions skillfully designed to hype their proposal they want to infiltrate every home on Saipan and try to sell their fairytale version of what this Bush Monument will mean to the children of the Marianas.

We are supposed to believe an economic "study" bought and paid for by the PEW group when it makes outrageous claims of economic benefit. We are supposed to look the other way while they pay off local persons and groups to support the idea of ceding the northernmost islands of the Commonwealth and surrounding waters to the USA for all time. We are supposed to ignore the promises of luxurious free trips to these islands for influential persons willing to support them. I am sure the "results" of this latest "scientific" phony phone study paid for by PEW will be skewed to magically show how nearly every person on the planet is sold on the idea of the federal government taking control of one third of the Marianas forever. Have the Guam salesmen called your house yet?

We are supposed to believe that Pew is willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars "just for the satisfaction" of knowing they were able to influence the President of the United States to force the Marianas to give them a third of our 2,000 year heritage. Something makes me doubt that. There are favors being traded at very high levels and huge sums are at stake in this takeover bid. All for "the satisfaction"? How dumb do they think we are?

"Saving the Environment" is a clever ploy, and nothing more. These folks claim they want to preserve an area they say is already pristine. That cover story is not just doubtful, it is ridiculous. The truth is they want federal control over those areas and they are willing to pay out big bucks to get it. They want control to be taken from the legitimate owners of those lands and waters, the indigenous citizens of the CNMI with no chance for us to ever regain it.

The pot is beginning to boil. You can count on PEW and their paid minions to try and push public opinion their way by any means possible. There is an almost 100 percent split right now. The indigenous peoples who rightfully own those lands and waters oppose the Bush Monument proposal overwhelmingly. Foreign nationals and many mainland-based U.S. citizens are in favor of taking this area from those indigenous who have been guaranteed control of it. Our freely elected pepresentatives, our senators, our governor, all of our mayors oppose this idea and our village elders almost to a man oppose it as well.

How dumb do they think we are? They hope we are very dumb; but they are wrong. We can stop them if we stand up and fight. If you do not fight this absurd theft of our heritage now and they succeed in taking our islands and waters, what will you tell you children and grandchildren? It will be too late then to tell them you are sorry. All will be gone.

Rep. Stanley McGinnis Torres
Via email

We are supposed to believe an economic "study" bought and paid for by the PEW *group when it makes outrageous claims of economic benefit. We are supposed to look the other way while they pay off local persons and groups to support the idea of ceding the northernmost islands of the Commonwealth and surrounding waters to the* USA *for all time. We are supposed to ignore the promises of luxurious free trips to these islands for influential persons willing to support them. I am sure the "results" of this latest "scientific" phony phone study paid for by* PEW *will be skewed to magically show how nearly every person on the planet is sold on the idea of the federal government taking control of one third of the Marianas forever. Have the Guam salesmen called your house yet?*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Light south winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84	▼72

Around The Globe

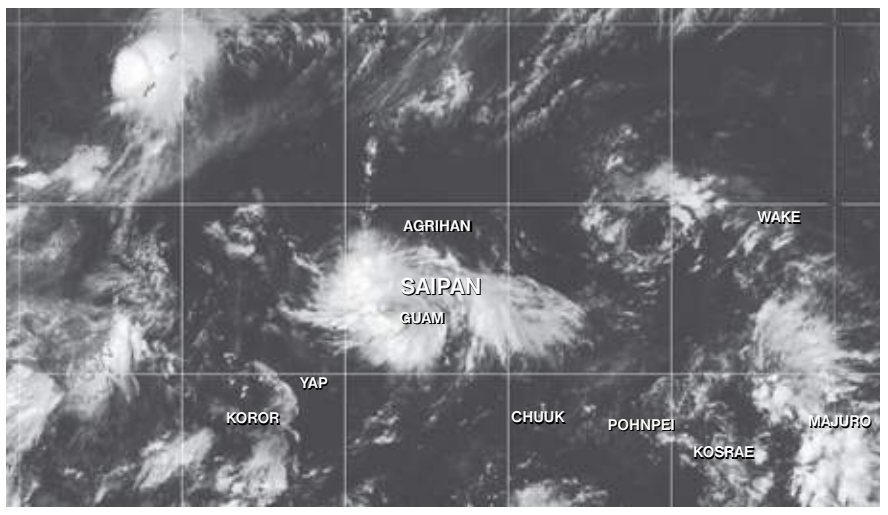
Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲60	▼52
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼64
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼57
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼71
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼51
Pusan	Cloudy	▲86	▼66
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼56
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼59
Seoul	Sunny	▲86	▼61
Tokyo	Rain	▲75	▼71
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼61

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:24AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:40AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:37PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:11PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:15PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low level circulation centered 200 miles northwest of the Marianas at 17N144E is producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms mainly south and west of the circulation center within 100 miles of a line from 18N141E to 11N144E. This area includes the Marianas, east of the Marianas. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are located within 80 miles of a line from 15N148E and 11N148E. A monsoon trough extends eastward from a circulation centered at 8N131E over Koror to 6N137E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located south of Koror between 6N and the equator from 130E to 136E. An upper-level low centered about 500 miles west of Wake Island at 18N158E. Scattered showers can be found northeast of the upper-level low between 21N and 18N from 160E to 162E. A surface trough extends southward from 12N165E to eq163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located east of the trough over the Marshalls and Kwajalein within 100 miles of a line from 13N166E to 1N172E. Surface convergence is allowing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms to develop 400 miles south of Chuuk or between 3N and 1N from 150E to 154E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:06AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:06AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:06AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:06AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:12PM	8:23AM
Friday	9:02PM	9:24AM
Saturday	9:57PM	10:27AM
Sunday	10:57PM	11:32AM
Monday		12:35PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Federalization and the global community

Kudos to the NMI Council for the Humanities for the excellent roundtable discussion presented Monday evening at the American Memorial Park. Any time there is "standing room only," one knows that they have a "hit."

The title of the discussion was: "Federalization: Impact on Local Culture." I wish it would have been: Federalization: Will it Impact the Local Culture," or better yet: "How Will it Impact the Local Culture?" To me, that would have been an easier question to address and/or answer. I had a sense, as an observer, that many, if not all of the panel members, struggled with the questions!

As I sat there, I thought back to my undergraduate days, when I was a Sociology major, and no matter what the course title, we were repeatedly asked to "define" culture. It seemed that everyone knew and/or had a sense of what it was, but we all had significant difficulty coming up with a "hands-on" definition.

Defining "culture" is somewhat like trying to catch lighting in a jar, or putting toothpaste back in a tube. We have an innate sense of it, but we struggle with a definition. That said, my answer to the unasked question: Will it impact the local culture is ABSOLUTELY! How could it not? It will affect it both positively and negatively. Just like everything else around us.

I sense that everyone on the panel accepted the fact that we ARE a part of the "global community." How could we be alive and not be?

The ONLY constant in society today is CHANGE! And, that is not very different were we to transport ourselves backwards (something we can fantasy about, but cannot do) some 100 years. The difference is the CADENCE of CHANGE!

Some of the instruments that have affected societal change in the past century: the telephone, air travel, television, the computer, the Internet, cell phones, and the myriad of electronic devices that we are convinced we can no longer live without. Are we ALL a part of the "global community?" Of course, we are! We can communicate with people all over the world by the touch of a button, and we can do it instantly!

And, anyone who knows anything about this "electronic age" knows we have not even scratched the surface of it. Ten years from now, we will wonder how we survived with the outdated equipment we are currently utilizing.

Saipan, like every community world wide, will have their culture affected daily. Some of it we will embrace. Other changes will create difficulties for us. Hopefully, we will learn to manage these changes.

> I *sense that everyone on the panel accepted the fact that we* ARE *a part of the "global community." How could we be alive and not be?* The ONLY *constant in society today is* CHANGE! *And, that is not very different were we to transport ourselves backwards (something we can fantasy about, but cannot do) some* 100 *years. The difference is the* CADENCE *of* CHANGE!

Think about how Elvis Pressley affected the musical culture. Better yet, think about how the Beatles affected musical culture. There were no announcements! Stand back, we are about to be faced with radical change! Protect your children from this evil music! This change occurred insidiously, and before we knew it, the new music became a part of us. Most people, especially the younger set, embraced the cultural change immediately! Today, most adults embrace "Beatlemania"!

Saipan is no more a "cultural melting pot" than New York City, Los Angeles, Seattle, London, or Hong Kong. We are just so much smaller than the aforementioned cities. Everything is magnified here!

The United States has been consumed with safety since 9-11. In some respects, there is better control and oversight relative to immigration here than there is in the U.S. There are thousands of "illegals" walking across both borders, Mexican and Canadian, on a daily basis. Should the U.S. be more concerned about their immigration problems, and less concerned/involved in ours? Perhaps! But, that is not a realistic approach in these times. We must remember that we do exist in a global community. And, we are allied to the U.S.…for better and for worse!

Interestingly, during this election year in the U.S., neither presidential candidate wants to send the "illegals" home to their native lands. Both McCain and Obama claim they are needed to sustain the U.S. economy. If that is so, then no matter which of them is elected, they are NOT going to propose doing something here that they oppose at home! We need to "chill out"! And, they are dealing with illegal immigrants. We have few of those. Surely, we will find a mechanism to protect the "legal" immigrants that have come to the CNMI. They do embellish OUR culture!

And, if we continue to want U.S. money and financial assistance, and we want it without having to repay it, then we best accept the fact that they are going to have major input on how this island is administered, especially in the arena of immigration.

I suspect the cultural changes as a result of federalization will be minimal. Some of the changes will be advantageous. Some will create hardships. Hopefully, we can migrate to a point wherein we can accept those changes that we like and negotiate those we do not.

Some three and a half years ago, prior to the last election, I had a three-hour conversation with an "indigenous local." He wants his island the "way it USED to be." I was impressed and thought to myself, he may be right. It is his island. Since then, I realize that no one can go back. I'd like to be 30 again. It just isn't going to happen.

We must adapt to the changes that are occurring around us. It is beyond anyone's ability to control these changes. We cannot even control the cadence of these changes! We ARE a part of the "global community." And, we are connected to the world electronically!

So, again, KUDOS to the Council for the Humanities! Do it again, and again! Open forums are so productive, and can be so enlightening. I suspect many in the population base here are frightened of what will happen next June. We will adjust, and we will survive, and with a positive attitude, we can thrive!

Alan Stuart Markoff, DDS, MBA
Papago

Clarification

Hafa Adai Bruce,

Regarding your statement in Tuesday, Sept. 17, edition of *Saipan Tribune* that I should resign my position as Resident Representative to the United States as I am running for a different elected office, I would like to refer you to Title II, Section 202 of the U.S. Public Law 110-229 that created the Delegate for the CNMI.

Section 202 entitled "Delegate to the House of Representatives from Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas," provides that:

"The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall be represented in the United States Congress by the Resident Representative to the United States authorized by Section 901 of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union With the United States of America(approved by Public Law 94-241(48 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)). The Resident Representative shall be a nonvoting Delegate to the House of Representatives, elected as provided in this title."

I trust that you will see clearly that I, as a Resident Representative to the United States, do not have to resign and then run for the same position, a Delegate to the House of Representatives. This is no ambiguity about the language of Public Law 110-229. I hope that you will make the necessary correction, and thank you for your understanding.

Pete A. Tenorio
Washington Representative

Pugua and culture—NOT!

Alexander Colonel Sablan said, "You can take the culture out of betel nut but you can't take the betel nut out of the culture! Hafa Adai!"

I find it insulting that he chose to close his remarks with Hafa Adai! How's this for MVA's new slogan—"Hafa Adai, and a warm welcome to our betel nut spit-laden island. Please watch your step while touring our beautiful island, and be ready to dodge the red spit stains on the ground." How can you go off quoting CNMI's national greeting of hospitality? Does Mr. Sablan care that reckless, selfish, idiotic chewers expel their disgusting and grotesque spit on the ground? Does Mr. Sablan care that the same group of chewers use soda cans, plastic bottles, juice boxes, and McDonald's and Coffee Care cups stuffed with napkins as their makeshift spittoons? Then recklessly leave these converted spittoons anywhere they please? Is this the type of behavior we want our kids, guests, and tourists to see? Sadly, many betel nut chewers on Saipan are guilty of this. I'd say about 99.99 percent of all chewers. This behavior of reckless and careless chewing is just like the boonie dogs pooping all over Saipan. The boonie dogs wander around and poop wherever they feel like because they don't know any better. Well, in defense of the boonie dogs, their brains are incapable of thinking to relieve themselves in a sanitary way, unlike the careless chewers on Saipan. Perhaps the chewers suffer from brain damage caused by chewing.

So I'd like to pose a question to all chewers on Saipan. How would you like it if someone were to walk up to your front door and poop like it's their right, then walk away expecting you to clean it up for them? Would you be okay with that? I seriously doubt it. For sure you'd be angry and demand that that person clean up the poop, right? Well I feel the same way when you spit your betel nut juice on the ground. I demand that you get some soap and water, get on your knees and scrub it up. Betel nut spit on the ground is just as gross and disgusting as the boonie dog poop. Back in the cowboy days, chewing tobacco and spitting anywhere on the ground was acceptable. Well, guys and gals of the betel nut-chewing society, those days are long gone. What happened between the cowboy days and now is what we call civilization, which is defined as an advanced state of human society. Do you remember when your parents hammered you for not picking up after yourself? Well you're all adults now, and your parents are not around to pick up after you, so chew responsibly! Keep your spit tightly sealed in those makeshift spittoons and be sure to dispose of them in a garbage can when you're done. And by all means, stop spitting on the ground!

> How *would you like it if someone were to walk up to your front door and poop like it's their right, then walk away expecting you to clean it up for them?* Would *you be okay with that?* I *seriously doubt it. For sure you'd be angry and demand that that person clean up the poop, right?* Well I *feel the same way when you spit your betel nut juice on the ground.* I *demand that you get some soap and water, get on your knees and scrub it up.* Betel nut spit on the ground is just as *gross and disgusting as the boonie dog poop.*

The innocent victim here is the betel nut (areca catechu or areca nut). Just like anything else that falls in the hands of humans, it gets corrupted, destroyed, and ends up with a bad rap.

So contrary to Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan's comments, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial initiating a betel nut chewing ban in government offices is a good thing. It doesn't take away from the sting of CUC and the much opposed Feds lawsuit, but I give him props for initiating the ban.

Philip Leyland
Navy Hill, Saipan

Business

Government bails out AIG with $85 billion loan

By JEANNINE AVERSA, IEVA M. AUGSTUMS and STEPHEN BERNARD
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the second time this month, the U.S. government put taxpayer money on the hook to rescue a private financial company, saying the failure of the huge insurer American International Group Inc. would further disrupt markets and threaten the already fragile economy.

The Federal Reserve said Tuesday it would provide up to $85 billion in an emergency, two-year loan to rescue AIG, which teetered on the edge of failure because of stresses caused by the collapse of the subprime mortgage market and the credit crunch that ensued. In return, the government will get a 79.9 percent stake in AIG and the right to remove senior management.

The move was similar to government's seizure on Sept. 7 of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, where the Treasury Department said it was prepared to put up as much as $100 billion over time in each of the companies if needed to keep them from going broke.

Both moves were bound to raise questions about the use of taxpayer money to bail out private firms.

The Fed said it determined that a disorderly failure of AIG could hurt the already delicate financial markets and the economy. Although little known off Wall Street, AIG does business with almost every financial institution in the world and insures $88 billion worth of assets including mortgages and corporate loans.

Its failure could also "lead to substantially higher borrowing costs, reduced household wealth and materially weaker economic performance," the Fed said in a statement.

The decision to help AIG reversed the government's stance over the weekend, when it refused to use taxpayer money to bail out Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. Lehman, which filed for bankruptcy protection Monday, collapsed under the weight of mounting losses related to its real estate holdings.

The White House said it backed the Fed's decision Tuesday.

"These steps are taken in the interest of promoting stability in financial markets and limiting damage to the broader economy," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said.

After meeting with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke in a late-night briefing on Capitol Hill, Congressional leaders said they understood the need for the bailout.

"The administration is approaching an unprecedented step, but unfortunately we are living in unprecedented times." said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "Hearing of these plans, you have to stop to catch your breath. But upon reflection, the alternatives are much worse."

New York officials said the deal helps stave off a fiscal crisis for the state.

"Policy holders will be protected, jobs will be saved," New York Gov. David Paterson said Tuesday night.

The Fed's move was part of a concerted push to help calm jittery markets and investors around the world.

On Tuesday, the Fed decided to keep its key interest rate steady at 2 percent, but acknowledged stresses in financial markets have grown and hinted it stood ready to lower rates if needed.

The central bank also pumped $70 billion into the nation's financial system to help ease credit stresses. In emergency sessions over the weekend, the Fed expanded its loan programs to Wall Street firms, part of an ongoing effort to get credit flowing more freely.

AP

A woman leaves an American International Group office building Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008 in New York. Shares of American International Group Inc. fell Tuesday as investors questioned whether the huge insurer would come up with more money to stay in business and avoid igniting even more global financial turmoil.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks stabilize, but critical insurer teeters

NEW YORK (AP)—The Federal Reserve forged an extraordinary $85 billion rescue Tuesday night of insurance giant American International Group Inc., offering a respite from two days of chaos in the American financial system. The move came hours after the Fed resisted a cut in interest rates to buoy Wall Street, which staged a slight rebound anyway from Monday's biggest point drop in the Dow Jones industrials since the 2001 terrorist attacks. Investors had feared that a failure of AIG, the world's largest insurer, would set off even more financial turmoil than the collapse the day before by venerable investment house Lehman Brothers. AIG, a company little known off Wall Street, does business with almost every financial institution in the world and insures $88 billion worth of assets including mortgages and corporate loans. Under the plan orchestrated by the Fed during a day of crisis talks, the U.S. government will provide an emergency $85 billion loan and in return receive a 79.9 percent equity stake in the company, similar to the way the government took control of faltering mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The Fed said in a statement that an AIG failure could "lead to substantially higher borrowing costs, reduced household wealth and materially weaker economic performance."

Barclays to buy Lehman banking divisions for $250M

NEW YORK (AP)—Two days after walking away from a deal to purchase all of Lehman Brothers, Barclays PLC said Tuesday it had agreed to acquire Lehman's North American investment banking and capital markets businesses for $250 million in cash. The British bank will also purchase Lehman's New York headquarters and its two data centers in New Jersey for $1.5 billion. Lehman's parent company Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.'s filed for bankruptcy protection on Monday after it was unable to find financing or fresh capital to shore up its balance sheet amid a continued downturn in the credit markets.

The deals require approval from the bankruptcy court. Barclays said it will acquire Lehman's North American banking operations, which include fixed income and equities sales, trading and research and investment banking business.

Fed shows tough love and holds key rate steady

WASHINGTON(AP)—Showing a tough love stance for now, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues decided to keep a key interest rate steady Tuesday. They acknowledged stresses in financial markets have grown, though, and hinted they stood ready to lower rates if needed. Wreckage on Wall Street in recent days did not force the Fed—as some thought possible—to reverse course and cut rates. The Fed left its key rate at 2 percent for the third straight meeting. It marked the first meeting this year the Federal Open Market Committee, which sets interest rate policy, agreed unanimously with a decision. The prime lending rate for millions of consumers and businesses stayed at 5 percent. The prime rate applies to certain credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other loans. The Fed's key rate and the prime rate are at four-year lows. The Fed's view of economic and financial conditions, however, was more dour than its last assessment in early August. Economic growth appears to be slowing as consumers hunker down and export growth cools off a bit, Fed policymakers said. And, "strains in financial markets have increased significantly," the Fed said. The more bearish tone indicates the Fed is again open to rate cuts down the road, some analysts believe.

Oil prices sink below $92 on Wall Street tumult

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices extended their retreat Tuesday, shedding $10 a barrel in a violent, two-day slide as tumult on Wall Street dims hopes for a swift economic recovery and signals another drop in U.S. energy demand. Crude, which shot up near $150 a barrel only two months ago, is now down 8 percent for the year. Meanwhile, gas prices edged higher at the pump, topping $3.85 a gallon amid the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. However, given crude's continuing slide, retail gas was expected to turn lower within a few weeks. As uncertainty grips Wall Street, evidence mounted that U.S. consumers and businesses were bracing for a protracted economic downturn that should guarantee more of the money-saving energy conservation measures of the past year: Americans will cut back on driving, airlines will keep fewer planes in the air and U.S. manufacturers will be shipping fewer products. That in turn was expected to keep crude prices down.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,782.200 Down 17.600 (0.37%)
HONG KONG	18,078.11 Down 222.50 (-1.22%)
JAKARTA	1,785.229 Up 49.593 (+2.86%)
TOKYO	11,773.35 Up 163.63 (+1.41%)
K. LUMPUR	1,012.37 Down 19.26 (-1.87%)
MANILA	2,457.00 Up 35.28 (+1.46%)
SINGAPORE	2,444.92 Down 16.51 (-0.67%)
SEOUL	1,424.5 Up 36.75 (+2.65%)
BANGKOK	623.77 Down 0.79 (-0.13%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	11,059.02 +141.51
NASDAQ	2,207.90 +27.99
S&P	1,213.59 +20.89

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2586
British Pound	0.5612
Canadian Dollar	1.0698
Chinese Renmbi	6.843
Euro	0.7067
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7844
Indian Rupee	46.417
Indonesian Rupiah	9401.5
Japanese Yen	105.945
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4463
New Zealand Dollar	1.5192
Philippine Peso	47.03
Singapore Dollar	1.4359
South Korean Won	1142.3
Swiss Franc	1.1234
Taiwan Dollar	32.079
Thailand Baht	34.315

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

McCain, Obama trade heated jabs over economy

AMERICA VOTES

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP) — John McCain and Barack Obama traded increasingly barbed insults along with prescriptions for the ailing economy Tuesday as financial fears shoved aside lipstick on pigs and every other political issue in a blink with just weeks left in the long presidential campaign.

An ad by Democrat Obama sneered: "How can John McCain fix our economy if he doesn't understand it's broken?"

Getting even more personal, Republican McCain retorted: "Sen. Obama saw an economic crisis, and he's found a political opportunity. My friends, this is not a time for political opportunism; this is a time for leadership."

McCain commented as he and running mate Sarah Palin addressed a rally late Tuesday in Vienna, Ohio.

The verbal dueling showed the importance both candidates put on the issue of the economy as the continuing financial meltdown on Wall Street has driven all other issues out of the news. Both campaigns now believe the candidate who manages to wrest control of the issue and gain voters' confidence could well be the next president.

Earlier in the day, McCain called for a crisis commission, while Obama laughed that off as "the oldest Washington stunt in the book."

"This isn't 9/11," Obama told a noisy crowd of more than 2,000 at the Colorado School of Mines, dismissing the idea of a need for study. "We know how we got into this mess. What we need now is leadership that gets us out. I'll provide it. John McCain won't."

McCain, campaigning in Florida, promised reforms, too, to expose and end the "reckless conduct, corruption and unbridled greed" that he said had caused the financial crisis on Wall Street."

The bewildering turmoil has shaken Americans' confidence, erased hundreds of billions of paper wealth for U.S. stockholders and led McCain and Obama to forsake other controversies and scramble back to the economy as the primary concern of voters.

The presidential campaign had taken an odd turn to side issues - Alaska's "Bridge to Nowhere" and moose-hunting, Obama's crack about lipstick on a pig - after McCain's surprise pick of Alaska Gov. Palin as his running mate. There was a fascination with huge crowds attracted by Palin. But the collapse and merger of some of Wall Street's legendary companies forced a return to reality seven weeks before the election.

What do the voters think?

McCain and Obama now are trusted equally on the economy, with 34 percent of voters naming each as the candidate who would do a better job dealing with what is easily the country's top worry, according to an Associated Press-Yahoo News poll conducted last week. Previously, Obama had had a solid advantage on the issue.

McCain wasn't sticking to economics on Tuesday. His comments grew more personal as the day wore on.

AP

Republican presidential candidate Sen., John McCain, R-Ariz., shakes hands with supporters at a rally in Vienna, Ohio, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008.

Alaska AG: Troopergate witnesses won't testify

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)— Alaska's attorney general says state employees subpoenaed in the investigation of Gov. Sarah Palin will not testify.

In a letter to the Democratic state senator overseeing the investigation, Attorney General Talis Colberg asks that the subpoenas be withdrawn. He also says the employees will not appear before the investigator unless either the full state Senate or the entire Alaska Legislature votes to compel their testimony.

Last week, a committee of lawmakers issued subpoenas for 13 people, including Todd Palin, the governor's husband, in the investigation of whether the governor fired her public safety chief for refusing to dismiss her former brother-in-law, an Alaska State Trooper.

All those summoned are state employees, except Todd Palin.

Bush suddenly scraps comments on financial markets

WASHINGTON (AP)—With little explanation, President Bush on Tuesday scrapped a statement he planned to give on the tumultuous financial markets, abandoning any press coverage of his meeting with key economic advisers as more developments roiled Wall Street.

As announced by the White House, Bush was scheduled to make comments to a pool of reporters after huddling with a key financial working group led by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. Its members include Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and other key government figures in the field of commerce.

Yet after the session began, the White House told the media to never mind.

Spokesman Tony Fratto said only, "We decided it would be best to limit public comment about markets today." He declined to offer any explanation.

The meeting went on as planned.

After the session, White House press secretary Dana Perino offered a one-sentence description of the session. She confirmed that Bush had been briefed by his working group on financial markets and said he appreciated their work to "stabilize the markets."

Several hours later, in a bid to save the economy from further meltdown, the government announced it would provide an emergency loan of $85 billion to rescue insurance giant American International Group. The Federal Reserve said in a statement it determined that a disorderly failure of AIG could hurt the already delicate financial markets and the economy.

The White House said Bush supported the move.

A senior administration official confirmed Tuesday evening that the AIG proposal was discussed at Bush's meeting with his financial working group at the White House. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the private session.

ACROSS THE NATION

Engineer in wreck: Warm to some, recluse to others

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Around his neighborhood, Metrolink engineer Robert Sanchez was considered a recluse with four miniature greyhounds and a poorly kept yard. But among young train fans, he was something of a celebrity. "He called them his teenage train buffs," next-door neighbor Bud Amelsberg said. "They would all yell at him as he rolled by." Sanchez, 46, died at the controls of the commuter train that slammed head-on into a freight Friday, killing 24 passengers and injuring nearly 140. Investigators looking into what went wrong in the final minutes of Metrolink 111 want to find out if Sanchez was text messaging a young train buff from his cell phone when he ran through a red signal and into the path of a Union Pacific locomotive. Metrolink has said Sanchez caused the crash—the nation's deadliest train wreck in 15 years—but the National Transportation Safety Board is withholding judgment and said it could take up to a year to complete its investigation.

Flood forces parts of Texas border town to empty

PRESIDIO, Texas (AP)—The rain-swollen Rio Grande began sloshing over a levee near this border town Tuesday, and officials cleared everyone from low-lying areas as they awaited a deluge they said was inevitable. "There's nothing we can do. The water is coming," said James Leiman, a spokesman for the International Water and Boundary Commission. Hundreds of people in Presidio and nearby Redford already had fled their homes by the time flood control crews were pulled back Tuesday. State officials said floodwaters were expected to flow through Presidio, a city of about 5,000, later Tuesday. Water had started flowing over a levee outside the city, although it had not broken the structure, said Presidio city administrator Cynthia Clark. Presidio officials went door-to-door asking people to evacuate and made the same announcement from a helicopter.

Ohio killer: Weight gain isn't to avoid execution

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP)—A double murderer scheduled to be executed next month in Ohio said Tuesday he has not deliberately gained weight to rule out his death by lethal injection. Instead, Richard Cooey said in a death row interview that his execution cannot be carried out humanely under current state procedures because his veins are hard to reach. "Vein access was an issue even when I was back in the service," Cooey, 41, said in an hour-long interview with the Associated Press at the Ohio State Penitentiary. Cooey, 5-foot, 7 inches tall and 267 pounds, said he has gained perhaps 70 pounds while being locked up for raping and killing two University of Akron students 22 years ago while he was on leave from the U.S. Army. He blamed the weight gain on medication and lack of exercise. "It's hard getting access to my veins," said Cooey, who was handcuffed and locked in a closet-sized visiting room. He spoke through a straw-sized slit in a reinforced glass partition.

House approves offshore drilling

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House voted late Tuesday to open waters off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to oil and gas drilling but only 50 or more miles out to sea and only if a state agrees to energy development off its shore.

Democratic leaders called it a step toward energy independence, but Republicans labeled it a "sham" because most of the estimated 18 billion barrels of oil believed to lie below off-limits coastal waters are within 50 miles of land and will remain out of bounds.

The measure passed in a largely party-line vote of 236-189. It now goes to the Senate, where energy will be the topic later in the week. Thirteen Democrats bucked their leadership and voted against the measure.

Even before the House vote, the White House said President Bush was prepared to veto the measure should it reach his desk. An administration statement said the bill would "stifle development" of offshore energy resources by essentially making permanent drilling bans within the 50-mile coastal buffer, while imposing new taxes on the largest oil companies.

But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the bill "represents a new direction in energy policy" and a "bold step forward that will end our dependence on foreign oil" by using billions of dollars collected in taxes on large oil companies to promote alternative fuels and energy efficiency.

Asia

China reports 3rd death in tainted milk scandal

By TINI TRAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—China's health minister said Wednesday that tainted milk formula has killed three Chinese babies and sickened 6,200 in a spreading scandal that prompted three additional companies—including China's biggest dairy—to recall products.

Officials said that about 20 percent of the dairy companies tested nationwide had sold products tainted with melamine. Suppliers to the companies are thought to have added the banned chemical, normally used in plastics, to raw milk to make the milk appear higher in protein.

The companies included Mengniu Dairy, China's biggest milk company, which said Wednesday it was recalling its baby formula after government tests found melamine in the product. The announcement said the recall covers three batches of formula made in January but gave no details on how much product will be affected. It did not say whether any of Mengniu's baby formula was exported.

Health Minister Chen Zhu told a televised news conference that 6,244 babies had been sickened after being feed tainted milk formula, and that 158 were suffering from acute kidney failure.

The head of China's quality watchdog, Li Changjiang, said that in addition to the company at the heart of the food scandal, Sanlu Group Co., and Mengniu, two other companies, Guangdong-based Yashili and Qingdao-based Suncare, were recalling their products.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine had already reported that its inspectors had found melamine "in 69 batches of milk powder manufactured by 22 companies."

The nationwide inspection by China's quality watchdog agency took test samples from 109 companies that produce baby milk powder in China. Li said another 66 companies had stopped production before the melamine problem emerged.

Yashili exported its products to Bangladesh, Yemen and Myanmar, but AQSIQ said initial testing of samples of the company's exports turned up no trace of melamine.

In Hong Kong, food inspectors ordered a recall after melamine was found in an ice cream bar made by Shanghai Yili AB Foods. The amounts of the chemical found "would not pose major health effects from normal consumption of the bar, however, small children should not eat it," the Center for Food Safety said in a notice posted on its Web site.

AP
In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a nurse takes care of a sickened child with kidney stones at Hebei People's Hospital in Shijiazhuang, capital of north China's Hebei Province Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008.

Pakistan troops ordered to open fire on US raiders

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's army said Tuesday that its forces have orders to open fire if U.S. troops launch another raid across the Afghan border, raising the stakes in a dispute over how to tackle militant havens in Pakistan's unruly border zone.

Adm. Mike Mullen, the U.S. chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, arrived in Pakistan late Tuesday amid the increased tensions. Mullen planned to meet with top civilian and military leaders to discuss a range of issues, including ways to improve coordination and cooperation along the Pakistan-Afghan border.

Pakistan's government has faced rising popular anger over a Sept. 3 ground attack by U.S. commandos into South Waziristan, a base for Taliban militants killing ever more U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Pakistan says about 15 people were killed, all of them civilians.

The new firing orders were disclosed by Pakistani army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas in an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press.

Abbas said Pakistani field commanders have previously been tolerant about international forces crossing a short way into Pakistan because of the ill-defined and contested nature of the mountainous frontier.

"But after the (Sept. 3) incident, the orders are clear," Abbas said. "In case it happens again in this form, that there is a very significant detection, which is very definite, no ambiguity, across the border, on ground or in the air: open fire."

The statement was the strongest since Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Pakistan's army chief, raised eyebrows last week by vowing to defend Pakistani territory "at all cost." Abbas would not say whether the orders were discussed in advance with U.S. officials.

Rep. Gary Ackerman, Democratic chair of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on South Asia, and other lawmakers expressed concern about Abbas' comments at a hearing Tuesday to examine a Bush administration request to fund an upgrade of Pakistan's aging fleet of F-16 fighter planes.

Majority of Thai lawmakers back Thaksin's in-law

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A brother-in-law of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was elected the new leader of Thailand on Wednesday, a development likely to intensify the country's heated political crisis.

The lower house of Parliament voted 298-163 in favor of Somchai Wongsawat, 61, whose controversial candidacy had initially divided the ruling party and drew fierce opposition from anti-government protesters currently occupying the prime minister's compound. Five lawmakers abstained from the vote.

"I would like to thank everyone for your confidence. I will carry out my duty to the best of my ability," Somchai said, standing from his seat in Parliament after the house speaker read out the final tally. He then walked over to opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva and shook his hand.

The ruling People's Power Party and its governing coalition hold 306 of the lower house's 480 seats.

The arrival of a new prime minister marked a small step forward in Thailand's tumultuous political crisis but not one likely to defuse it.

The prospect of a prime minister related to the disgraced, deposed Thaksin and linked to his allies in the ruling People's Power Party was unlikely to disperse anti-government protesters who have been camped at the prime minister's official compound since Aug. 26, and it could inflame them further.

More than 2,200 police and soldiers were deployed in the Parliament area, police said.

Somchai was education minister and became the acting prime minister after Samak Sundaravej was forced from office last week when a court found him guilty of violating the constitution by accepting pay for hosting TV cooking shows.

Urbane and well-spoken, Somchai has the kind of bureaucratic experience favored by Thailand's ruling class, having served more than 20 years as a judge before entering government.

But he comes with the political baggage of being a brother-in-law of Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 coup and is now in exile in London after fleeing his country to escape corruption charges. Thaksin's political legacy is a prime target of anti-government protesters.

Thaksin, a telecommunications billionaire, is accused of buying his way into power and then enriching himself at the country's expense. His ouster came after months of demonstrations by the People's Alliance for Democracy, which then took aim at Samak, whom they accused of being Thaksin's proxy.

EU urges RP govt, Muslim rebels to resume talks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The European Union urged the Philippine government and Muslim separatist rebels Tuesday to resume peace talks amid an escalation of fighting in the country's southern Mindanao region.

In a statement in Manila, the EU said it was deeply concerned by the growing number of civilian casualties and displaced people and "condemns the indiscriminate killing of civilians."

"The European Union believes strongly that the conflict in Mindanao can only be resolved through dialogue and calls upon all parties to show restraint and genuine respect for the rule of law," the statement said.

It urged the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, "who both have invested heavily in the peace process, to agree to an early return to the negotiating table in order to seek a lasting solution to the conflict."

Violence erupted early last month when three guerrilla commanders raided villages, shooting or hacking to death 37 civilians after a preliminary peace accord was aborted.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Anwar: More support than needed to topple gov't

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's opposition leader said Tuesday he has more than enough pledges of support from ruling coalition lawmakers to topple the government, and urged the prime minister to give up power voluntarily. Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's claims—his strongest yet and seemingly beyond the likelihood of a bluff—signaled he could be on the verge of nudging the ruling National Front coalition from power for the first time since independence in 1957. Earlier Tuesday, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi brushed off Anwar's claims. "This is Anwar's mirage. It is nothing. It is merely a dream," he said. Anwar's People's Alliance coalition won an unprecedented 82 seats in the 222-member Parliament in March general elections, 30 short of a majority. But during the last six months, he has been wooing disgruntled lawmakers from the National Front to defect.

6.1 magnitude quake rocks East Timor's capital

DILI, East Timor (AP)—A powerful undersea earthquake rocked East Timor's capital on Tuesday, sending terrified residents fleeing from homes and buildings, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The U.S. Geological Survey says a magnitude 6.1 quake struck 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Dili. "Everything was shaking for a few seconds," said Joao de Araujo, an employee at the United Nations office in the city. "All I could do was run from my office building." Women were screaming "Earthquake! Earthquake!" and children were crying, he said. Others started banging on bamboo drums and on metal objects to sound the alarm. East Timor sits along a series of faultlines and volcanos known as the Pacific Ring of Fire. In December 2004, a massive earthquake off Indonesia's Sumatra island—along the same faultlines—triggered a tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people.

Mob attacks police station in India, killing 1

BHUBNESHWAR, India (AP)—Hundreds of armed attackers stormed a police station and killed one police officer Tuesday in a part of eastern India wracked by weeks of Hindu-Christian violence, authorities said. A group of 300 to 400 men attacked and set fire to the station in a pre-dawn raid in Orissa state's Gochapada village, said Gopal Chandra Nanda, the state's top police official. The two dozen police at the post fled, but one was killed when the attackers fired at them, Chandra said. He said two police vehicles were set on fire. He would not say if the mob was Hindu or Christian. Orissa has been plagued by religious tensions between Christian missionaries, who work with mostly poor tribes in the region, and hard-line Hindu groups who claim the Christians are forcing or bribing people to convert.

World

UN nuclear watchdog says Iran blocking arms probe

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—A new International Atomic Energy Agency report said Monday that Iran has repeatedly blocked a U.N. investigation into allegations it tried to make nuclear arms and the probe is now deadlocked.

Since its last report in May, "the agency ... has not been able to make any substantive progress," said a copy of the IAEA report obtained by The Associated Press. It called the impasse a matter of "serious concern."

The IAEA report was released to the 35-nation IAEA board and the U.N. Security Council, which has already imposed three sets of sanctions on Iran over its nuclear defiance.

The document said Iran has now amassed a third of the amount of enriched uranium it could reprocess into the material for the fissile core of a nuclear weapon should it choose to do so. But U.N officials familiar with the report emphasized that Iran—whose known nuclear programs are under IAEA supervision—has shown no indication it wanted to go that route.

"We've arrived at a gridlock," said a senior U.N. official, describing the document as "a progress report without progress." He demanded anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the restricted report.

The United States and its allies allege Iran wants to develop its uranium enrichment program to make nuclear weapons. But oil-rich Iran insists it only wants to make nuclear fuel and IAEA oversight and inspections of its known enrichment program has not come up with any evidence that contradicts that.

The report confirmed Iran continues to expand its uranium enrichment program in defiance of the three sets of U.N. sanctions.

Fingers crossed, Petraeus leaves Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Gen. David Petraeus, whose strategy for countering the Iraq insurgency is credited by many with rescuing the country from all-out civil war, stepped aside Tuesday as Gen. Ray Odierno took over as the top American commander of the conflict.

At a traditional change-of-command ceremony attended by top Iraqi and American military and civilian officials, Petraeus said that Odierno's skills and experience make him "the perfect man for the job."

With Defense Secretary Robert Gates presiding at the ceremony in a cavernous rotunda of a former Saddam Hussein palace outside Baghdad, Petraeus handed over the flag of his command, known as Multi-National Force Iraq, to Odierno and then bade farewell.

Petraeus said the insurgents and militia extremists who have created such chaos in Iraq over the past five years are now weakened but not yet fully defeated. He noted that before he took the assignment in February 2007 he had described the situation as "hard but not hopeless."

He thanked his troops for having "turned 'hard but not hopeless' into still hard but hopeful."

Despite the security gains, insurgents retain the ability to carry out devastating attacks. On Monday evening, a female suicide bomber blew herself up among a group of police officers northeast of Baghdad, killing at least 22 people. Hours earlier, car bombs in the capital killed 13 people.

Because of Odierno's extensive previous experience in Iraq, he is generally expected to be able to continue building on the gains made under Petraeus' command, although an evolving set of difficult challenges face him here and in Washington, where he will soon have a new commander in chief.

A major part of Odierno's job will involve working with Iraqi political leaders, in tandem with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker. In that role Odierno may call on his experiences in 2004-05 as assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he was the Pentagon's liaison to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and traveled abroad with her frequently.

Odierno commanded the 4th Infantry Division during the opening months of the war in 2003. He returned in December 2006, at perhaps the darkest hour for the American-led enterprise, to be the No. 2 commander under Petraeus. He finished that tour in February 2008.

When he arrived in Baghdad on Saturday, Odierno recalled after accepting the handover from Petraeus, "I felt like I had never left, but I also felt like I was coming back to my second home."

Also addressing the ceremony was Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said Iraq had become a "vastly different place" during Petraeus' tenure.

AP

Gen. David Petraeus and Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, who rises to four-star rank, take part in a a formal change-of-command ceremony at the main U.S. military headquarters in Baghdad on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008.

Rivals to lead Israeli ruling party that is tough on Iran

JERUSALEM (AP)—Both front-runners for the leadership of Israel's ruling party vow to take a hard line against Iran, threatening possible military force if sanctions do not halt what Israel believes is a covert nuclear weapons program.

The winner of Wednesday's primary to replace Ehud Olmert as head of the Kadima Party would be in a strong position to succeed him as prime minister, and the stance toward Iran could have repercussions for peace in the Middle East.

Israel's soft-spoken foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, is battling Shaul Mofaz, a former military chief and defense minister, in the race to head the centrist party. Both say they prefer a diplomatic solution, but promise to be as tough as needed in confronting Iran.

Israeli officials describe Iran as the biggest threat to Israel's existence. They cite Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's frequent calls for its destruction and the Iranian development of long-range missiles capable of striking the Jewish state.

Mofaz has indicated a stronger willingness to turn to the military option. In June, he spooked world oil markets by telling the newspaper Yediot Ahronot that Israel would have "no choice" but to attack Iran if diplomatic efforts to end Tehran's nuclear program fail.

"If Iran continues its nuclear arms program - we will attack it," he was quoted as saying.

After coming under heavy criticism for his comments, Mofaz toned down his language, but he hasn't ruled out a military strike.

"I never said that military action is the preferred choice," he told Yediot Ahronot last week. "It would be a last resort in the event that other options fail."

Livni, Israel's top diplomat for the past two years, has repeatedly said she hopes diplomacy prevails. But she too has said force cannot be ruled out if Iran fails to yield to sanctions.

Georgia: Intercepted calls prove self-defense

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—In a bid to portray Russia as the aggressor in last month's war, Georgia has released recordings of what it says are two intercepted cell phone calls purporting to show that Moscow invaded before Georgia's offensive against South Ossetia.

The recordings released Tuesday, if authentic, will not cut through the fog of the final hours when escalating tensions burst into war. But President Mikhail Saakashvili hopes they will help dispel a dominant narrative that says his country was on the attack. He said they prove Russian tanks and troops entered South Ossetia many hours before Georgia began its offensive against separatist forces.

"Evidence in the form of telephone intercepts and information that we have from numerous eyewitnesses conclusively prove that Russian tanks and armored columns invaded our territory before the conflict began," Saakashvili told reporters.

Together, the two purported intercepts last less than two minutes. But so far, they are Saakashvili's best argument in his bid to turn the tables against Russia.

Since the war that killed hundreds of people and drove nearly 200,000 from their homes, Moscow has relentlessly cast Saakashvili as an unstable leader who struck first, forcing a response.

Saakashvili says he tried to ease tensions with a unilateral cease-fire, but that Russia's leaders had made up their minds.

"It looks like the decision had been made in Moscow prior to that, and nothing was going to change it on the ground," Saakashvili told The Associated Press.

Russia has always cast Georgia as the aggressor, saying it only responded militarily to defend Russian citizens and peacekeeping troops in South Ossetia from a Georgian offensive that began late on Aug. 7.

Georgia says the intercepted phone calls show Russian forces entered South Ossetia before dawn that day.

The calls are between a South Ossetian border guard at the southern mouth of the Roki tunnel, which leads across the mountainous border from Russia into the separatist Georgian province, and another guard at headquarters in the regional capital, Georgia says.

The recordings were first released to The New York Times, which reported their contents Tuesday. A Georgian Interior Ministry official, Shota Utiashvili, played two of the recordings for the AP and provided printed English translations from the original Ossetian.

Unity agreement doesn't slow exodus of Zimbabweans

MUSINA, South Africa (AP)—A power-sharing deal has not stopped the flow of Zimbabweans streaming into South Africa to escape the hunger and poverty wrought by runaway inflation in their homeland.

About 1,000 Zimbabweans seeking asylum formed a line that snaked across a packed-dirt parking lot in this South African border town Tuesday. Many had been waiting for days to file their applications.

Some said they feared President Robert Mugabe was still in a position to unleash violence on his enemies. Others said that while they found hope in the agreement signed Monday, they did not expect Zimbabwe's economic crisis to be quickly resolved.

Under the pact, Mugabe remains president and head of government. Morgan Tsvangirai is prime minister-designate and will head a new Council of Ministers responsible for forming government policies.

Observers worry that rather than resolution, the agreement heralds government paralysis.

In Musina, asylum seekers waited restlessly in a lot dotted with ash left over from the previous night's fires and lengths of cardboard used as mattresses. Children gathered around a blackened paint pot balanced over a fire to await a breakfast of corn meal porridge and milk.

Robin Mucheana reached South Africa on Saturday and was still waiting Tuesday to have his application processed.

Environment

Safeguarding your family against pesticides

Last of a three-part series

Fruits and vegetables are good for us—they keep us healthy! We should eat lots every day.

Farmers use pesticides to help fruits and vegetables grow. Pesticides help plants grow, but they are poisonous for people—they make us very sick if we eat them. This is why it is very important that we wash fruits and vegetables in warm water to clean off the pesticides and make them safe to eat.

Safe handling

At home, gardeners also use pesticides to help their flowers and plants grow. Before purchasing a pesticide, be sure one is needed. Look at the damage to see if there are enough pests to make it worth your time and money to apply chemical control.

Usage - If you decide to use a pesticide, select the proper chemical for the job. Read and understand all labels for every pesticide you buy and use. Do not rely on your memory. It is always best to re-read labels before using pesticides. Wear clean, dry clothing that covers the body. Never use cotton or leather gloves.

Transporting - When transporting pesticides, ensure the containers do not shift, roll or bounce around in your truck or car.

Storage - Store pesticides in a locked, cool, dry place that is out of direct sunlight. Do not store near food, feed, seed or animals. Store all pesticides in their original containers with the labels intact.

Disposal - Dispose of small empty pesticide containers or unwanted pesticides at the DPW-Refuse Transfer Station in Puerto Rico, Saipan or other public trash dump directly.

Spills - Clean up spills immediately. Decontaminate tools used to clean up the spill. The clean up and contaminated materials should be disposed of as directed by the label or at the public trash dump. Use protective equipment as directed by the label. In the case of large spills, contact the Pesticide program at DEQ.

Symptoms of pesticide poisoning

People exposed to pesticides may experience a number of different symptoms. Even with only mild symptoms, a person can feel uncomfortable. Eyes can water, get red and itchy. Skin can get red bumps and feel itchy. Mild symptoms include:

- Headache
- Dizzin, fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting
- Excessive sweating
- Blurry vision
- Chest pain, difficulty breathing
- Watery eyes or mouth, and runny nose
- Muscle pain, cramping

Pesticide law

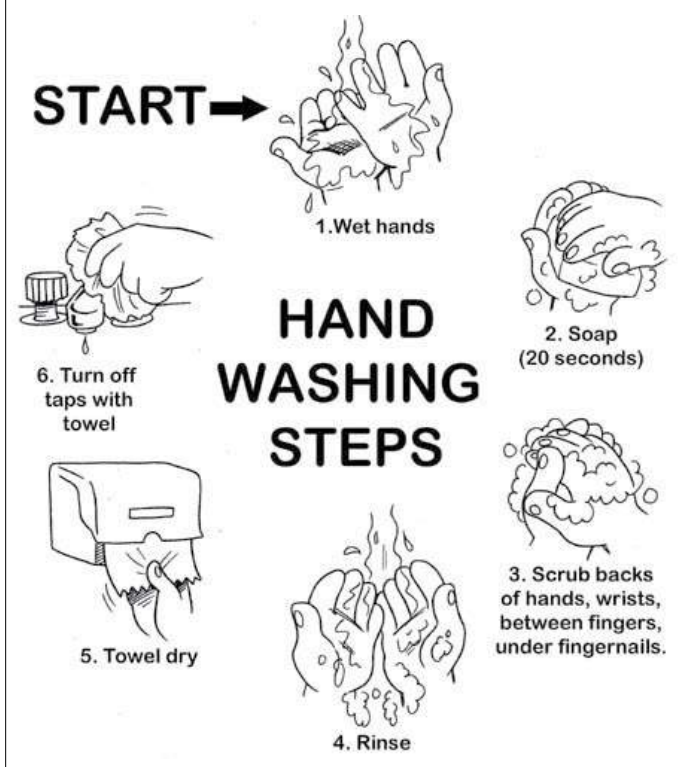
Pesticides are regulated by the CNMI Environmental Protection Act (Public Law 3-23) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Enforcement of both is the responsibility of the Division of Environmental Quality.

These laws set stringent rules governing the use of pesticides by:

- Requiring federal registration of pesticides sold or distributed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Prohibiting the use of any pesticide in a manner inconsistent with product labeling;0
- Restricting the sale and use of certain hazardous pesticides to licensed dealers and certified applicator; and
- Prohibiting the importation of unregistered pesticides.

For more information on pesticides and their use, contact the Pesticide program at the Division of Environmental Quality at 664-8500/1 or via email at environment@deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

Proper hand washing steps to protecting against pesticide contamination



Coral Reef Teacher Camp held last Sept. 4-5

Last Sept. 4 and 5 Coastal Resources Management Office, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, and the Pride Campaign hosted the 2008 Coral Reef Teacher Camp. Working in conjunction with PSS Professional Development days, the Teacher Camp was an opportunity for teachers to learn about the CNMI's coral reefs and how to incorporate coral reef education into their lesson plans.

During the two day camp, experts from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management Office, and MINA discussed with teachers a range of topics from coral reef biology to enforcement. The group also went on field trips to talk and learn about coral reefs outside the classroom and in the field.

In addition to these activities, teachers met Primo, the Yellow Crowned Butterflyfish. As the mascot for the CNMI Pride Campaign, Primo's mission is to introduce the community to his special species and remind people about the importance of caring for our reefs. The Yellow Crowned Butterflyfish is found only in the Marianas—no where else in the world! If you see Primo at school, at the Street Market, or any other event, be sure to say "hi."

To successfully complete the camp, each teacher will contribute three lesson plans. Two of which will take place in the classroom, and one which will take students out into the field for a "hands-on" learning experience. And, it doesn't end there. These lesson plans will be shared with other teachers and incorporated into next year's teacher camp program.

For more information, or to participate in the next Teacher Camp, call Brooke Nevitt at Coastal Resources Management Office 664-8320 or send an e-mail to pridecnmi@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Primo, the Yellow Crowned Butterflyfish, made a cameo during the 2008 Coral Reef Teacher Camp held last Sept. 4 and 5.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance's Chuck Sayon with participants of the 2008 Coral Reef Teacher Camp atop Mt. Tapochao.

GET GROWING

Which of these is easiest to grow on your windowsill?

a. a cabbage patch
b. an avocado plant
c. a light bulb

Answer:

b. You need an avocado pit, a couple of toothpicks and a glass of water.

Every plant, no matter how big or small, helps to make our air cleaner and our earth greener.

Plants, animals and people all need each other. Plants make the oxygen that people and animals breathe; people and animals exhale the carbon dioxide that plants need to live.

Everyday somebody somewhere is taking down trees and plants to make room for homes, businesses, streets or parking lots. Therefore, it is up to us to maintain the balance of planting as fast as we tear down.

Starting a container garden in your home or on the patio is simple. Here are some steps to get you started:

- Decide what you want to grow. Herbs, flowers, and salad greens are easy to grow in sunny climates. Purchase the seeds a nursery or hardware store. You may also want to buy some potting soil and a little plant food;
- Reuse 5-galloon container, large coffee can or if you prefer, a clay pot, wooden container, or anything you have on-hand and want to reuse and can poke holes in the bottom so water can drain out. Ensure there is enough space for soil as indicated in the type of seed you'll be planting (read directions on the seed packet);
- Line the container with old newspapers so that soil does not escape when you water. Next, fill the container to the top with soil. Water the soil to allow it to settle in the container. Put a dish under the container to catch the water that drains out of the soil;
- Plant the seeds as directed on the packet. Be mindful of the different depths for different plants;

- Pat the soil down gently, and water the soil again, being careful not to disturb the tiny seeds. It's best to use a soft, fine spray from a watering can or spray bottle;
- Check the soil regularly (or as directed on the packet);
- Feed your plants every 2 weeks or as directed on the packet with plant food; and
- Keep your plants happy by making sure they have enough water, sunlight and plant food. You'll not only be happier by growing healthy plants, but you'll be making the earth a little greener. ***(COCO)***

'Take the Right Route'—again—on Oct. 10

In April, over 800 took the right route by walking, biking, running, or carpooling to work or school, thereby reducing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Next month, on Oct. 10, the CNMI Energy Office and the CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach is urging all islanders on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to once again, "Take the Right Route."

We can all do something right away. And if we all do, something will undoubtedly change.

You can help to switch off global warming and start today—by using clean energy and cutting down on wasted energy.

Energy efficient lights use about one-quarter of the electricity to create the same light as a conventional light bulb.

Everyone has a responsibility to the world we live in now and the world we will leave to future generations. Take a first step to reduce your carbon footprint and "Take the Right Route" Oct. 10 by walking, running, biking, or carpooling to work or school. You will save one pound of CO_2 for every mile you don't drive, save money, and maybe even your waistline.

Individuals, schools, and organizations that participate will receive a FREE pair of "Walk it, Don't Drive it" zories, reusable waterbottle, or lanyard.

Remember every act counts!

To sign up for "Take the Right Route" on Oct. 10 please contact: Laruen Sanchez or Noberto Mendiola at the CNMI Energy Office at 664-4480/1 or energy@pticom.com. ***(COCO)***

Life & Style

Hirst auction breaks sales record at Sotheby's

LONDON (AP)—A sale of pickled sharks, butterfly paintings and other pieces by provocative British artist Damien Hirst has raised $198 million, silencing his doubters and defying the global economic gloom.

Sotheby's auction house said the total for the two-day sale was a record for an auction of works by a single artist.

The turmoil engulfing global financial markets did nothing to dampen prices as more than 600 prospective buyers packed the showroom for each of the three auction sessions. Others around the world bid by phone.

"The Kingdom," a tiger shark preserved in formaldehyde, sold for $17 million in the first session Monday evening. "The Golden Calf"—an embalmed calf with golden hooves and horns—fetched $18.5 million.

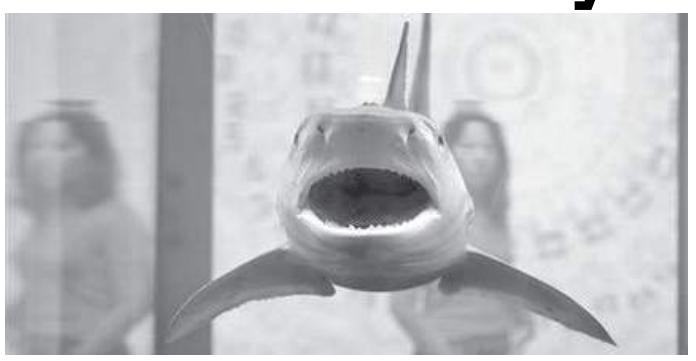
"Fragments of Paradise," a confection of stainless steel, glass and manufactured diamonds, sold for almost $9.4 million, five times its pre-sale estimate.

Two of Hirst's butterfly paintings were sold for charity, for a total of more than $2.9 million.

All prices include a buyer's premium. Sotheby's said the total smashed the $20 million record for an auction of works of a single artist set in 1993 for 88 works by Pablo Picasso.

Hirst took a risk by offering more than 200 pieces of new work through Sotheby's rather than a gallery. He said it was a more democratic way to sell art—and it also spared him a gallery's hefty commission. But if buyers had stayed away, Hirst's global brand would have been tarnished.

The most successful of the so-called "Young British Artists" who came to prominence in the 1990s, Hirst is famous for eye-catching works redolent of death and decay—pickled animals, rotting cows' heads, diamond-encrusted skulls. He employs a large staff to help him make his works, and some critics had suggested his prolific output was devaluing the work.



AP

This is a Monday Sept. 8, 2008 file image of a visitor as she looks at the work 'The Kingdom' by British artist Damien Hirst at an auction house in London.

Serena Williams to serve up memoir in 2009

AP

In this Sept. 8, 2008 US Open women's singles tennis champion Serena Williams poses with her trophy in New York's Times Square.

A memoir by Serena Williams will be released in 2009 by Grand Central Publishing, which beat out a handful of other publishers bidding for the life story of the No. 1 ranked women's tennis player.

"Serena Williams is one of the world's most remarkable athletes," Grand Central editor Karen Kosztolnyik said Tuesday in a statement. "We've watched her rise to No. 1 despite physical and emotional setbacks, and her hard work and determination have inspired legions of fans young and old. Serena will give her memoir a strong motivational slant."

Financial terms for the book, currently untitled, were not disclosed, although a publishing official with knowledge of the negotiations said bidding reached at least $1.3 million. The official, citing the confidentiality of the negotiations, declined to be identified.

Williams, 26, has won nine Grand Slam titles and, with sister Venus Williams, won a gold medal in women's doubles at the recent Olympics in Beijing.

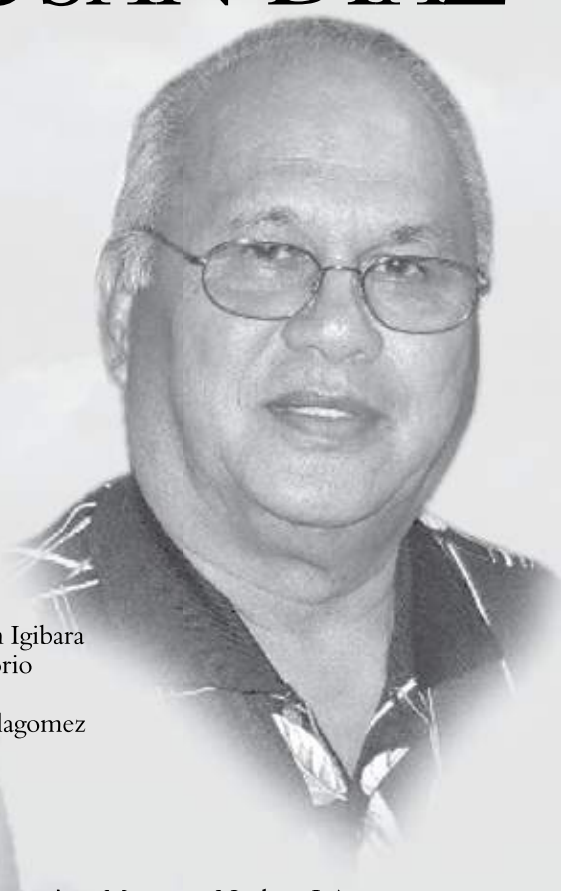
Grand Central Publishing is a division of the Hachette Book Group. ***(AP)***

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

JUAN MANIBUSAN DIAZ

(Appitiur/Ghitipung)

Affectionately known as
"JUAN IKA"



September 14, 1938 - September 11, 2008

was called to his eternal rest on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at the age of 69.

In his new life, Juan now joins his:

Wife: Frederica Villagomez Diaz
Grandson: Juan Diaz
Great Grandson: Darren John Benavente Sablan
Parents: Agapito Joaquin Arriola Diaz and Maria Santa Maria Manibusan Diaz-Igibara
Step-Parent: Jesus Pangelinan Igibara
Parents-in-law: Eugenio Cruz and Ana Tenorio Villagomez
Sisters: Carmen Diaz Cruz, Asuncion Manibusan Diaz, Elvira Manibusan Igibara and Maria Jesusa Manibusan Igibara
Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Jesus Duenas Cruz, Manuel Tenorio and Maria Castro Dela Cruz, Jose Iglesias Torres, Herman Tenorio Villagomez and Romana Lizama Villagomez
Special Friend: Dolores Sablan Guerrero

The Love and Blessing of his memory will live in the hearts of his:

Children: Juan V. and Florence U. Diaz (Aaron Jay)
Norbert V. Diaz and Julie D. Camacho (Kenneth Eugene, Ann Margaret, Norbert Jr.)
Anna V. Diaz (Jonathan Derreck (†Darren John), Deanndrea Nicole/Zack Gonzalez (Emilio, Joel))
Carmen D. and Patricio F. Tudela (†Juan, Patrick Jr./Evira, Brandon Joshua, John Zachery, April Rickanae)
James V. and Betty Anne Dlc. Diaz (Brandon Anthony, Joshua James)
Patrick V. Diaz and Jessica Dlg. Tomokane (Frederika Maria)
Joaquin V. and Agnes S. Diaz (Kalyn Frederica)
Jeffrey V. and Lani Mae U. Diaz (Reana Rose, Luis Javin, Victoria Amparo, Jeffrey Bernard II, Derence Wilgene)
Francisco Joseph (Feng) V. Diaz

Brothers and Sisters and Spouses: Francisco Manibusan and Remedio Duenas Diaz, Asuncion Manibusan and Jerry Lee Jolin, Rosa Manibusan and Francisco Sablan Salas, Luis and Teresita Sablan Manibusan, Edward and Delfina Villagomez Manibusan

Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Raphael Manahane and Merced Villagomez Reyes, Agnes Maratita Villagomez, Bernadita Villagomez Torres, Cornelio Taitano and Joaquina Villagomez Castro, Jose Tenorio and Joy Villagomez

Special Friend: Maria Benavente Sedmik

Additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at the family residence in Oleai, across San Jose Church, and daily masses are being offered at 6:00 a.m. at San Jose Church and 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church and San Roque Church. On Friday, September 19, 2008, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 a.m. to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yuus Maase Ginen I Familia

Witness contradicts self in O.J. Simpson trial

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A key witness in the O.J. Simpson robbery trial was confronted with contradictions in his testimony Tuesday, including his claim that he didn't try to profit from the casino hotel room confrontation that led to charges against the former football star.

Memorabilia dealer Bruce Fromong, who returned to the stand after becoming ill Monday, told defense attorney Gabriel Grasso he didn't have money on his mind while allegedly being robbed of sports collectibles by Simpson and a group of other men.

"You were not trying to profit off this?" asked Grasso.

"I was not trying to profit from it," said Fromong.

The attorney played a tape recording of the 2007 incident in which Fromong said, "It's not (expletive) over. I'll have 'Inside Edition' down here for us tomorrow. I told them I want big money."

Fromong acknowledged it was his voice and he conceded that he later advertised memorabilia on eBay with the statement, "The same ones stolen by O.J. in Las Vegas."

On redirect questioning, District Attorney David Roger asked to play more of the tape excerpt in which Fromong raged against Simpson.

"Nobody puts a (expletive) gun in my face. I stood up for this (expletive) when he was in jail. I stood up for him when he was on trial. I set up his offshore accounts," he yelled.

AP

Clark County District Attorney David Roger, left, questions witness Bruce Fromong during O.J. Simpson's trial in Las Vegas, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008.

Testimony came on the first anniversary of Simpson's Las Vegas arrest. He and co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart are charged with 12 counts of robbery, kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon and coercion. They have pleaded not guilty.

Tempers in the case boiled as Roger referred to the confrontation as "the robbery." The defense, which claims Simpson was trying to recover stolen personal items, objected on grounds that was a legal conclusion.

"He can call it alleged. I'm calling it a robbery," snapped Roger.

The judge admonished Roger to say "at the time of the incident" or "at the time of the event." She told jurors to disregard his remark and then yelled at objecting lawyers: "Sit down!"

"Listen folks," she said. "The last thing you want me to do as the judge is to start losing my temper in front of the fine ladies and gentlemen of the jury and having to deal with all of you. You've been warned, folks."

Fromong's contradictions continued. He acknowledged that he said previously, "I felt my life was being threatened."

But moments later, under inquiry by Stewart's lawyer Robert Lucherini, Fromong said, "I was not scared."

He insisted the memorabilia Simpson sought was not stolen but said he didn't know where some of it came from.

"I believe those items belong to Mr. Simpson's kids. They should go back to him," he said, claiming that if he and Simpson had discussed it, they could have reached "an arrangement" by which he would trade the items for Simpson's signature on photos he could sell.

Jurors Tuesday also saw surveillance video from the Palace Station casino hotel which showed the comings and goings of Simpson, Stewart and seven other men on the night of the alleged robbery. The tapes showed men walking about and eventually leaving with boxes.

Review: 'Igor' gives hunchbacks a bad name

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

Dr. Frankenstein himself could not revive "Igor," an animated comedy about a hunchbacked lab assistant playing at mad scientist.

A potentially original premise and an eager voice cast led by John Cusack and Molly Shannon are left to decay amid a clunky story vaguely reminiscent of "Monsters, Inc." and a clutter of cartoon images often resembling visuals rejected from "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride."

Director Tony Leondis ("Lilo & Stitch 2: Stitch Has a Glitch") and screenwriter Chris McKenna take a jumble of Hollywood horror cliches and shove them through a meat-grinder to concoct an awkward, unfunny comic twist on the evil-genius genre.

It all starts with a clumsy voiceover introduction by Igor (Cusack), one of the unsung lab gofers who help the kingdom of Malaria's demented inventors come up with their diabolical creations.

Seems Malaria was once sunny farmland until perpetual storm clouds moved in and choked off the crops - and the inhabitants' good dispositions. King Malbert (Jay Leno) came up with a new industry - EVIL - and he holds an annual competition to find the nastiest monsters, machines and doodads to extort cash from the rest of the world.

After Igor's crazy master (John Cleese) snuffs himself in an experiment gone bad, the hunchback seizes the opportunity to become a mad scientist himself by creating a behemoth terror of a woman (Shannon) out of spare parts.

Trouble is: His beast turns out to be a pussycat who calls herself Eva, would never hurt a fly and dreams only of becoming an actress.

With the aid of his other creations, an immortal bunny with a death wish (Steve Buscemi) and a dumbbell brain in a jar (Sean Hayes), Igor races to turn Eva into a malevolent colossus in time for the Evil Science Fair. All the while, Igor battles the machinations of rival madman Dr. Schadenfreude (Eddie Izzard) and his shape-shifting girlfriend (Jennifer Coolidge).

Like Eva herself, the movie is a bizarre mishmash of components. Many of the bug-eyed characters created by Paris' Sparx Animation Studios look like Burton castoffs, while the idea of a scary realm preying on the real world was handled far more cleverly in "Monsters, Inc."

AP

In this image released by MGM, a scene from the animated feature, "Igor," is shown.

Motion Picture Association of America rating definitions:

G - General audiences. All ages admitted.
PG - Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.
PG-13 - Special parental guidance strongly suggested for children under 13. Some material may be inappropriate for young children.
R - Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.
NC-17 - No one under 17 admitted.

The makers of "Igor" somehow decided that cramming in a bunch of Louis Prima songs and having Eva dress up like Little Orphan Annie to croon "Tomorrow" would be funny. It's not.

There's nothing truly bad or baneful about any of this. "Igor" is just completely empty of laughs.

Where's the torch-wielding village mob when you need it?

"Igor," an MGM release, is rated PG for some thematic elements, scary images, action and mild language. Running time: 86 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Prosecutors: No criminal conduct in Levert death

CLEVELAND (AP)—Prosecutors determined Tuesday that there was no criminal conduct involved in the March death of R&B singer Sean Levert, who was in jail when he became ill.

Levert, a member of the 1980s R&B trio LeVert and son of lead O'Jays singer Eddie Levert, died March 30 after he was taken from the Cuyahoga County jail to a hospital.

Prosecutor Bill Mason ruled out criminal conduct after his office reviewed an internal investigation conducted by the sheriff's department.

The coroner previously ruled that the 39-year-old Levert died from complications of sarcoidosis, an inflammatory lung disease.

Levert's widow, Angela Lowe, filed a federal wrongful death lawsuit in June accusing county jail officials of neglecting his medical needs.

Dennis Niermann, who represents Lowe and Levert's estate, said he wasn't surprised that Mason found no wrongdoing by the sheriff's department, which his office represents.

"It is a finding of no criminal wrongdoing and the lawsuit we have filed focuses on civil wrongdoings ... one has absolutely nothing to do with another," Niermann said.

The prosecutor's office released 162 pages of documents on Tuesday, including interviews with jail officials and a 3-minute video of Levert being placed in a restraint chair after he pounded on his cell walls and floor. He died about an hour later.

He had been placed in the jail's psychiatric unit earlier that day after stating that his son fell into a pool outside his cell window.

In the video, Levert is seen repeatedly shouting "no, no" and "mommy, mommy" as several jail officers tie him to the restraint chair.

County Coroner Frank Miller, who previously ruled out foul play or trauma, said Levert also suffered from other conditions, including heart disease, high blood sugar and withdrawal from Xanax.

The lawsuit contends that Levert suffered from severe anxiety and that he brought his prescription for the anti-anxiety drug to jail but was not given the medication. He had just started a 22-month sentence for failure to pay child support.

The lawsuit accuses the sheriff's department of failing to give Levert an adequate nursing assessment or mental health assessment and of failing to notify the jail pharmacy of his need for medication.

Investigators interviewed Christine Dubber, manager of health care services for the county jail, who said inmates are not allowed to take Xanax unless they are evaluated by a jail psychiatrist. She said Levert was scheduled to see one on April 8.

"Due to the volume of inmates and the level of severity, the schedule is based on need," she stated.

Levert's vitals were normal when he was given his initial health assessment on March 25, a day after he entered the jail, Dubber said.

Levert and his brother Gerald formed LeVert in the 1980s with childhood friend Marc Gordon. Their hits included "Baby I'm Ready," "(Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop) Goes My Mind" and "Casanova."

His brother died in 2006 at age 40 of an accidental mix of prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

Sean Levert, who was trying to start the group LeVert again, had pleaded guilty in March to six counts of failure to pay $89,025 in support to children aged 11, 15 and 17.

Stephen Colbert to host musical Christmas special

NEW YORK (AP)—O come, all ye Colbert faithful. Stephen Colbert will host his own Christmas special this year, Comedy Central announced Tuesday.

"A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift of All!" will air Nov. 23 as a one-hour special.

It will be a musical special featuring John Legend, Elvis Costello, Toby Keith, Willie Nelson, Feist - and "The Daily Show" host Jon Stewart, who's slated to sing a duet with Colbert of a song simply titled "Hanukkah." (The song Colbert is to sing with Nelson appears to be a version of "The Little Drummer Boy" - called "Little Dealer Boy.")

Most of the special's songs have been written by "Daily Show" executive producer David Javerbaum and Fountains of Wayne's bassist Adam Schlesinger.

Colbert, a practicing Catholic who has taught Sunday school in the past, has repeatedly found occasion to showcase his pipes on "The Colbert Report"—including a duet of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" with Legend and a brief serenade of Michelle Obama with Nat King Cole's "L-O-V-E."

In this May 3, 2008 file photo, TV Personality Stephen Colbert arrives at the premiere of "Speed Racer" during the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

AP

A DVD of the special will be released Nov. 25. Part of the proceeds will go to the charity Feeding America.

Tom Jones to release 1st album in US in 15 years

NEW YORK (AP)—After 15 years without a new album in the U.S., Tom Jones will release a disc of almost entirely original material this fall.

The 68-year-old singer will release "24 Hours" on Nov. 25 on S-Curve Records. It's a retro-tinged album much in the style of Amy Winehouse's "Back to Black" that finds the Welshman's voice as strong as ever.

"The fire is still in me," Jones told The Associated Press in a recent interview, speaking by phone from his home in Los Angeles. "Not to be an oldie, but a goodie. I want to be a contender."

The disc was produced by British production duo Future Cat, who have cut tracks for Lily Allen, Kate Nash and others. With backing horns and an almost Stax Records kind of soul, the sound is distinctly retro.

"We've been thinking about this for a while, doing a retro sound but new," said Jones. "And Amy Winehouse, she cracked it. When that album came out, my son called me right away and said, `You know what we've been talking about? Listen to this.'"

Since he released the hit "It's Not Unusual" in 1965, Jones has sold more than 100 million records worldwide. While his 2000 album "Reload" was a hit in Europe and elsewhere (buoyed by the club hit "Sex Bomb"), it was never released in the U.S.—which Jones calls "a shame."

AP

In this July 12, 2008 file photo, singer Tom Jones performs at the Annual GRAMMY Foundation "Starry Night" charity benefit in Los Angeles.

"The hits that I've had recently have all been European," he said. "I've had a lot of success worldwide, which is a pain because I live here and I do most of my shows in America. ... Hopefully this will straighten that out."

Jones, who regularly performs in Las Vegas, believes his voice hasn't aged - thanks partly to his careful treatment of it; he takes a humidifier with him traveling to keep his throat from drying. Jones even believes his lower registers have gotten richer.

"I wanted my voice to sound as natural as possible," Jones said of the album. "The arrangements and the production needs to be modern, but the vocal needs to sound like me."

There are two covers on the album—Bruce Springsteen's "The Hitter" and "I'm Alive" by Tommy James and the Shondells—but the rest Jones either co-wrote or collaborated with the songwriters. Bono and the Edge of U2 guest on the song "Sugar Daddy."

"I love doing the songs that I've had success with and the audience keeps those alive," Jones said. "But I love moving on."

Jon Stewart to honor Carlin at the Kennedy Center

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jon Stewart, Bill Maher and Margaret Cho are among an all-star lineup of entertainers who will honor the late comedian George Carlin at this year's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

The prize was announced just before Carlin's death in June. It will be awarded during a tribute performance November 10th at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. The program announced Tuesday will be aired later on PBS stations.

Others who will honor Carlin include Garry Shandling, Lily Tomlin, Denis Leary, Joan Rivers, Lewis Black and Richard Belzer.

The prize is being awarded posthumously for the first time in its 11-year history.

Last year the Kennedy Center honored Billy Crystal.

AP

This is an undated file photo originally released by HBO of George Carlinto promote his HBO special, "Its Bad For Ya".

Couric gets second Palin interview

NEW YORK (AP)—Second in the broadcast network competition to talk to Sarah Palin: Katie Couric.

The CBS anchor will spend two days on the road with the Republican vice presidential candidate as well as presidential hopeful John McCain, the network said Tuesday.

Couric's interview material will be aired Sept. 29 and 30 on the "CBS Evening News" and "The Early Show."

It's timed for just before the Oct. 2 vice presidential debate between Palin and Democrat Joe Biden.

ABC's Charles Gibson had the first in-depth network interview with Palin last week. She's also talking to Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity this week.

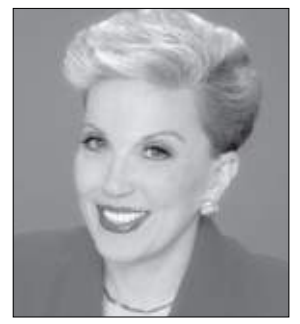
There's no word on whether Couric's interview material will appear on "60 Minutes," which competed hard to get the first Palin interview.

Awarding Couric the interview also appears to be a clear message from the McCain campaign to NBC News. Republicans have been unhappy with NBC, primarily because of the active support for Barack Obama voiced by MSNBC's Keith Olbermann.

So while Gibson and Couric have interviews with Palin, NBC's Brian Williams—who anchors the top-rated evening news program—has been snubbed so far.

Children suffer as witnesses to parents' constant combat

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 13-year-old boy, and I have a 5-year-old sister. Our parents are together, but Dad's job was relocated to another state and he's gone most of the week. When he gets home, all he and Mom do is fight.

The fighting puts a lot of stress on me. My sister asks me, "Why are Mommy and Daddy always fighting?" This makes me want to break into tears because I don't know what to tell her. Abby, please help me understand what to do in these situations.

WORRIED BIG BROTHER

DEAR BIG BROTHER: You should not have to be in the position of explaining your parents' deplorable behavior to your little sister. While you can assure her that the fighting has absolutely nothing to do with her—or you—the people who should be quieting your sister's fears are your parents. Please waste no time in telling them how upset your little sister becomes when she hears the quarreling, and that it makes you want to break down and cry, too. It's something they need to hear.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My uncle remarried a few years ago to an interior decorator I'll call "Fern." I asked her about getting some drapes made, and she came over and spent a couple of hours discussing styles, colors, trims and fabrics. I had my eye on some curtains that cost about $30 a pair, so I was shocked when Fern gave me an estimate of $12,000. (And that included my "family discount"!) Needless to say, I didn't get the drapes.

Last week—a year and a half later—I received a bill for $200. Fern enclosed a note with the bill saying she had thought I was still undecided about the drapes, but now that she realizes I'm not purchasing them, she should be compensated for her time. I feel I should have been told in advance that I'd be charged for the consultation, but she never mentioned it. What should I do?

WINDOW DRESSING IN N.J.

DEAR WINDOW DRESSING: As I see it, you have two choices: Pay the bill or write it off and risk jeopardizing your relationship with your uncle. If you value your relationship with him, you'll pay the money (in installments, if necessary) and keep your distance from his wife.

P.S. You are right. You should have been told in advance that she'd charge you a consultation fee. Shame on her.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently visited family I haven't seen in a long time. They had urged me to come and bring my baby so we could spend time with them. While we were there, we had some good conversations, but they had their TV on, so a lot of the time their eyes were glued to the television screen and no one was talking.

I wanted to say something because I had traveled so far—at their request—and they just sat there like zombies much of the time.

Is it rude to have the TV on when you invite guests to your home? Would I have been out of line to have said something to them, rather than stewing about it later?

TUBED OUT IN KENTUCKY

DEAR TUBED OUT: The answer to both of your questions is yes. While they were rude to have kept the television on during your visit, it would have been equally rude for you to have called them on their bad manners.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SO LONG, MOM. HOBBES AND I ARE GOING TO MARS TO LIVE. EARTH IS TOO POLLUTED.
HAVE A GOOD TIME.
SAY GOODBYE TO DAD FOR US. IF I CAN FIND AN INTERPLANETARY POST OFFICE, I'LL WRITE YOU ONCE IN A WHILE AND...
CALVIN, DON'T STAND THERE WITH THE DOOR OPEN. YOU'RE LETTING IN BUGS. EITHER STAY IN OR GO OUTSIDE.
SHE DIDN'T SEEM TOO CHOKED UP ABOUT US GOING, DID SHE?
WE SHOULD'VE LEFT A LONG TIME AGO.
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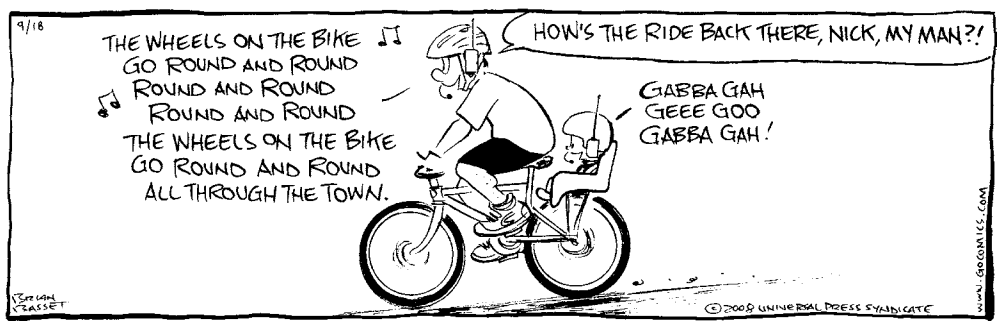
9/18

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


9/18
THE WHEELS ON THE BIKE GO ROUND AND ROUND ROUND AND ROUND ROUND AND ROUND THE WHEELS ON THE BIKE GO ROUND AND ROUND ALL THROUGH THE TOWN.
HOW'S THE RIDE BACK THERE, NICK, MY MAN?!
GABBA GAH GEEE GOO GABBA GAH!
BRIAN BASSET
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www.adamathome.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

RING
Glenn McCoy Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
OH, IT'S YOU. I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU NOW, SO I'M JUST GOING TO HANG UP.
Y'KNOW, THEY HAVE THIS THING CALLED CALLER I.D.
WHAT'S THE POINT?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pocket bread
5 Gentle soul
9 Force
12 Tel —
13 Winglike
14 Performance
15 Sheik portrayer
17 Grazing area
18 Main course
19 Indigent
21 "Why should I care?"
22 One of Santa's team
24 Donated
27 Wrestling surface
28 Mounties' org.
31 Mideast potentate
32 Hearty brew
33 Savings-plan acronym
34 Unescorted
36 Wrigley product
37 History
38 Singer Minogue
40 "That's a laugh!"
41 Fashion
43 Glum
47 Melody
48 Ratified
51 Oahu souvenir
52 Satan's field
53 Conked out
54 Prior to
55 Welsh veggie
56 Catch sight of

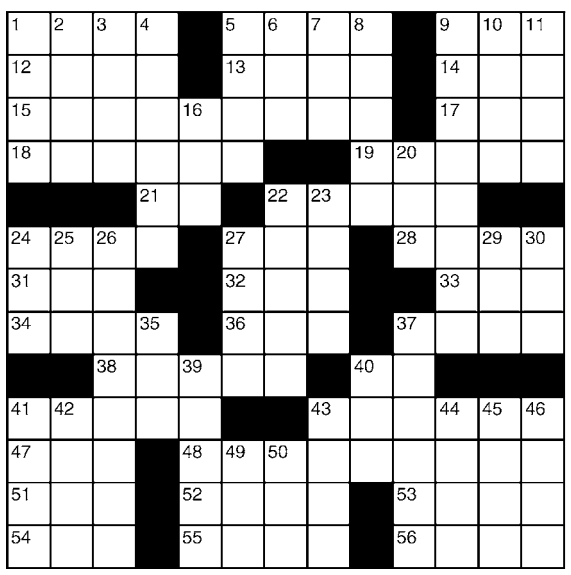
DOWN

1 Macadamize
2 Terrible guy?
3 Pinball no-no
4 Loath (to)
5 Tardy
6 Will Smith biopic
7 Isle of —
8 Cheery place?
9 Orange variety
10 On the rocks
11 Obedience-school lesson
16 Ultramodernist
20 Alway
22 Price
23 Particular
24 Petrol
25 Way back when
26 Maiden of Odin
27 Creche trio
29 "— Doubtfire"
30 Vanna's colleague
35 Olive —
37 Procession
39 Not bumpy
40 Coal carrier
41 Garage event
42 Layer
43 "Got —?"
44 Elevator name
45 Leak slowly
46 Vortex
49 St.
50 Whopper

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	S	K	■	T	A	T	■	A	D	O	S
O	R	C	A	■	O	R	E	■	S	I	G	H
D	I	A	Z	E	P	A	M	■	C	A	R	E
S	A	B	O	T	S	■	P	L	E	B	E	S
■	■	■	O	N	O	■	T	I	T	O	■	■
C	Y	D	■	A	I	D	■	P	I	L	O	T
D	A	I	S	■	L	O	P	■	C	I	A	O
S	K	A	T	E	■	E	E	K	■	C	R	Y
■	■	M	I	R	A	■	A	I	L	■	■	■
P	E	E	P	E	D	■	S	N	O	O	Z	E
R	A	T	E	■	D	I	A	G	O	N	A	L
O	V	E	N	■	E	O	N	■	S	U	P	S
N	E	R	D	■	R	U	T	■	E	S	S	E

Yesterday's answer 9-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Marsden, 35; Jada Pinkett Smith, 37; Aisha Tyler, 38; James Gandolfini, 47

Happy Birthday: Put on the heat when it comes to your investments, financial deals or money that has been owed to you for some time. Put your cash toward your home and family. A change of location will enhance your social life and bring you in contact with inspirational people. There is plenty coming your way, so begin to prepare. Your numbers are 5, 9, 17, 23, 28, 31, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can bet that someone will oppose you concerning a partnership. Be complimentary and compromising and you will get your way. It's all in the way you handle others today—be nice and have patience. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can make a difference by relying on what you know works and applying it to an organization, group or someone in need of help. Your sound advice will pave the way for an interesting idea. Travel or visit someone with knowledge. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Share your creative ideas and the feedback you get will help you advance. Love is on the rise and someone you deal with regularly will see something special in you. Expressive conversations will enhance your appeal. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick close to home. Complete unfinished chores and you will avoid criticism and complaints. A change in plans or the dynamics in your household will be beneficial in the end—even if you aren't sure about what's happening at the time. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take care of emotional issues quickly and you will be in a good position regarding love relationships. Changes at home that add to the comfort and pleasure of everyone living there will make your life easier and you more popular. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Talk about your plans and your feelings. Opening up to someone who counts in your life will give you the input you need to move forward rapidly. A good idea can turn into a moneymaking prospect. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Explosive action will bring poor results. Clever, well-thought-out maneuvers will get you exactly where you want to be. Stay calm, use your head and keep your plans under wraps. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't get hooked on something that isn't likely to work out in the end. It won't be worth what you will lose by taking a risk. Being secretive will only lead to suspicion and assumptions that will make matters worse. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Follow through with some ideas you picked up networking or at a conference, tradeshow or from an old friend. A change of location is probably tempting but don't think it will solve all your problems. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Renovations or even just altering the dynamics of the household pecking order will help to even things out and keep everything moving and running smoothly. Don't fall for someone's insincere compliments, pressure or guilt. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone will give you the wrong information or you will misinterpret what's being said. Don't let your emotions cause problems—go to the source and discuss what's going on openly. An older mentor will guide you through your upset. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A partnership can develop that will help you get ahead but, before you sign on the dotted line, be sure of what's actually being offered. Don't assume anything unless you have it in writing. No one is likely to give you something for nothing. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a do-gooder and a responsible friend. You support your beliefs and you cater to those you love. You think big and express yourself well. You are a leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1						
		6		5	2	9		
	3						2	8
	5		8		6			
	6			7			3	
			3		4		6	
9	8						7	
		2	1	3		4		
						5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	3	8	5	1	4	6	7
6	4	7	9	2	3	5	1	8
5	1	8	6	7	4	2	3	9
7	5	1	3	6	2	8	9	4
9	6	2	7	4	8	3	5	1
3	8	4	1	9	5	7	2	6
1	7	5	4	3	9	6	8	2
8	2	6	5	1	7	9	4	3
4	3	9	2	8	6	1	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES **Solution: 8 letters**

S	T	N	E	M	E	R	I	U	Q	E	R	A	N	K
E	N	R	E	A	L	I	S	T	I	C	P	L	A	N
N	E	N	A	V	A	L	U	E	S	T	E	P	S	O
E	T	F	O	I	E	L	D	E	S	R	U	O	C	W
R	S	P	I	I	N	I	E	I	C	U	R	C	E	L
G	I	R	O	R	S	I	H	V	R	S	I	O	T	E
Y	S	O	S	L	M	S	N	C	E	T	S	R	A	D
H	N	G	E	S	E	O	I	G	A	L	T	P	R	G
C	O	R	P	L	E	V	T	M	T	S	E	O	T	E
R	C	A	U	A	T	C	E	I	I	E	G	R	N	E
A	P	M	R	O	C	T	O	D	V	L	R	A	E	L
R	A	S	P	G	S	T	O	R	E	A	A	T	C	B
E	C	L	O	Y	F	I	C	E	P	S	T	E	N	A
I	E	R	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	I	C	E	O	N
H	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	A	L	A	N	C	E

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Achieve, Balance, Business, Concentrate, Consistent, Corporate, Course, Creative, Develop, Enable, Energy, Firm, Goals, Help, Hierarchy, Knowledge, Level, Meet, Mission, Motivate, Pace, Plan, Process, Programs, Purpose, Rank, Realistic, Requirements, Sales, Specify, Steps, Strategic, Systematic, Targets, Training, Trust, Values

Yesterday's Answer: Agent

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

UP UP HA HA

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pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: (D.D.A.T.S), Minor Child	)	FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0538
By: Suel, Daniel Repeki Suel, Venicia Taitano Petitioner(s)	)	**ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND NOTICE OF HEARING**

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on September 22, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Dated this 11th day of September, 2008.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO,
Judge

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Cubs hand Brewers Sabathia first NL loss

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago handed CC Sabathia his first NL loss and Milwaukee its fifth straight defeat while spoiling interim manager Dale Sveum's debut.

Sabathia (9-1), acquired by the Brewers on July 7, had won 12 straight decisions overall, dating to a June 5 loss to Texas when he was still pitching for Cleveland. He gave up four runs and nine hits in seven innings, including Alfonso Soriano's 29th homer in the seventh.

Sveum replaced Ned Yost, who was fired Monday in a shocking move by a team that is still 15 games over .500 with 11 left. But the Brewers lost for the 12th time in 15 games and fell one-half game behind New York for the NL wild card.

Prince Fielder hit his 31st and 32nd homers for the Brewers, but in the ninth with two on, the Milwaukee slugger was struck out by Kerry Wood to end the game.

Henry Blanco's pinch-hit RBI single in the eighth pushed Chicago's lead to 5-3.

Ray Durham hit a two-out RBI double off Wood in the ninth to make it 5-4 before Ryan Braun's infield single put runners at the corners and brought up Fielder On a 3-2 pitch, Wood got a called third strike past Fielder for his 31st save in 38 chances.

The victory reduced the Cubs' magic number for clinching their second straight NL Central title to four.

Phillies 8, Braves 7

In Atlanta, Ryan Howard rallied Philadelphia back into first place, hitting a go-ahead homer in the eighth for his fourth hit in an 8-7 victory over Atlanta on Tuesday night.

Brad Lidge escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth for his 37th save in as many chances and Philadelphia moved a half-game in front of fading New York, which lost 1-0 at Washington.

After trailing the Mets by 3 1/2 games going into last Thursday, Philadelphia leads the division for the first time since Aug. 26.

The Phillies led 3-0 and 4-3 before the Braves took a 7-4 lead with a four-run sixth.

Howard had a run-scoring triple as the Phillies scored twice in the seventh.

Julian Tavarez walked Jayson Werth with two outs in the eighth. Mike Gonzalez (0-3) came on and gave up Howard's homer. It was Gonzalez's second blown save in 13 chances.

Nationals 1, Mets 0

In Washington, Odalis Perez shut down slumping New York and scored the only run of the game.

The Mets lost for the fourth time in five games and dropped one-half game behind Philadelphia in the NL East.

A day after John Lannan held the Mets to one hit over seven innings, New York mustered just two in the first seven innings against Perez (7-10).

The lefty retired 13 straight between the hits—which came in the first and sixth innings—and never let a runner advance beyond second. Perez struck out six and did not walk a batter in 7 1-3 innings, his longest outing since Aug. 11, 2005.

Joel Hanrahan worked a perfect ninth for his ninth save.

Mike Pelfrey (13-10) allowed seven hits and four walks in seven innings.

Dodgers 6, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Derek Lowe allowed five singles over seven innings to remain unbeaten in his career against Pittsburgh, and Los Angeles edged closer to the NL West title.

Casey Blake homered and tripled his first two times up after sitting out Monday night with lower back stiffness. Manny Ramirez had three hits for the second successive night, including an RBI double in a four-run second.

The Dodgers won for the 14th time in 16 games and lead Arizona by 4 1/2 games in the NL West.

The Dodgers already had a run on Blake's 10th homer, then scored three in the second. Russell Martin hit a sacrifice fly, Andre Ethier, who had sat out three games, singled in a run and Ramirez doubled in the fourth run.

Blake tripled and scored on Blake DeWitt's sacrifice fly an inning later. Blake finished a double short of the cycle.

Lowe (14-11) is 6-0 in six career starts against the Pirates. He struck out three, walked none and was in trouble only in the fourth when the Pirates, down 4-0, scored on consecutive singles by Sanchez, Nate McLouth and Ryan Doumit to start the inning.

Diamondbacks 2, Giants 0

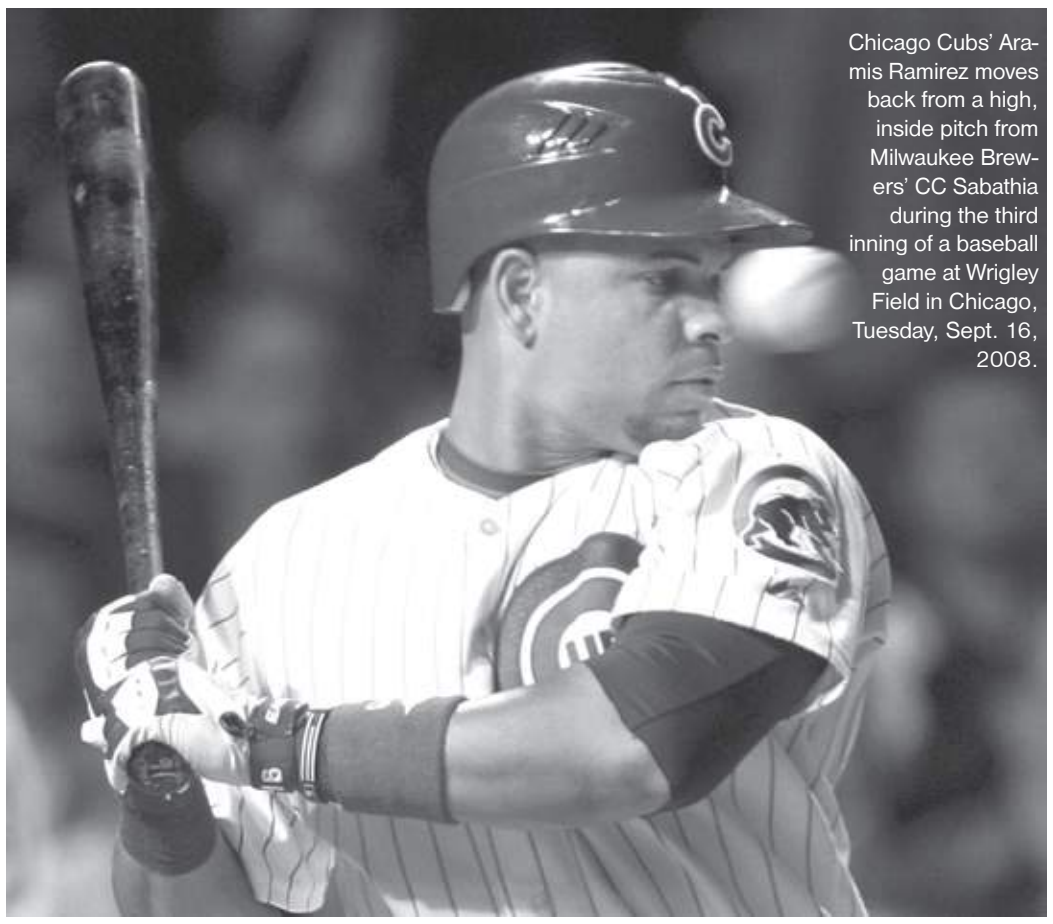
In Phoenix, Dan Haren struck out 12 in his first career shutout and Arizona avoided losing ground in the NL West.

Haren (15-8) allowed four hits in his sixth career complete game and first in two years. His strikeout total matched the career best he set for Oakland against Texas in 2006.

Chris Snyder and Stephen Drew homered for the Diamondbacks, who remained 4 1/2 games behind first-place Los Angeles with 12 games to play.

The Diamondbacks have won two straight for the first time since sweeping three from San Diego on Aug. 19-21. Arizona is 7-16 since then.

Snyder homered on the first pitch of the third inning and Drew on the first pitch in the sixth. Both were off Giants starter Matt Cain (8-13). It was Snyder's 16th and Drew's 18th homer of the season.



Chicago Cubs' Aramis Ramirez moves back from a high, inside pitch from Milwaukee Brewers' CC Sabathia during the third inning of a baseball game at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008.

Marlins 5, Astros 1

In Miami, Jorge Cantu hit a three-run homer and rookie Chris Volstad allowed one run in eight innings to lead Florida to its sixth straight win.

It was the third straight loss for the Astros, who fell three games behind New York in the NL wild-card race.

Cantu's three-run homer in the first, his 27th, ended Roy Oswalt's franchise-record scoreless innings streak at 32 1-3. Oswalt (15-10), who had lasted at least eight innings in five of his previous six starts, allowed five runs—three earned—and six hits over six innings. He struck out 10 to tie his season high.

Reds 4, Cardinals 2

In Cincinnati, Bronson Arroyo set a season high for wins and Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run double to lift Cincinnati.

Arroyo (15-10), who had allowed two homers in his previous eight starts, gave up two in seven innings, but still lasted long enough to improve to 5-0 in his last six starts and help send the Cardinals to their season-high sixth consecutive loss.

Arroyo, who won 14 games in 2005 with Boston and 2006 with Cincinnati, allowed five hits with no walks and four strikeouts.

Rockies 10, Padres 3

In Denver, Chris Iannetta hit his first career grand slam and Jeff Baker had a three-run homer for Colorado.

Ubaldo Jimenez pitched seven strong innings and Baker had three hits and three RBIs for the Rockies, who had lost eight of nine. Iannetta, Clint Barmes, Ryan Spilborghs and Dexter Fowler all had two hits.

Adrian Gonzalez hit his 34th home run of the year and fifth in the last six games for the Padres.

Jimenez (11-12) struck out nine, walked three and allowed three hits. He gave up only one hit in his last five innings and retired the final seven batters he faced.

The Rockies chased starter Shawn Estes (2-3) in a three-run fifth.

Rays 2, Red Sox 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Dioner Navarro singled with the bases loaded and one out in the ninth inning, enabling Tampa Bay to beat Boston 2-1 on Tuesday night and remain in first place in the AL East.

Navarro delivered his second game-winner in a week against the defending World Series champions, lifting a fly ball that sailed over the head of center fielder Coco Crisp on a 2-2 pitch from Justin Masterson (6-5).

A night after Boston hit six homers to rout Rays ace Scott Kazmir 13-5 and pull within percentage points of the division lead, Tampa Bay wiped out a 1-0 deficit on Carlos Pena's seventh-inning homer off Josh Beckett.

The Rays, who have led the division for the past 54 days, moved one game ahead of the Red Sox, who have lost seven of eight at Tropicana Field this season. Dan Wheeler (5-5) struck out the only batter he faced to bail Tampa Bay out of a ninth-inning jam and get the victory before 32,079.

Beckett limited the Rays to Carlos Pena's 29th homer and two singles in eight innings, and Andy Sonnanstine held the Red Sox to three hits and an unearned run on Kevin Youkilis' sacrifice fly in six innings.

White Sox 6, Yankees 2

In New York, Gavin Floyd pitched seven innings and Paul Konerko had two hits and an RBI in his return from a knee injury for AL Central-leading Chicago.

Alexei Ramirez homered and Juan Uribe had three hits and drove in two runs for Chicago, which movd 2 1/2 games in from of Minnesota. Ken Griffey Jr. had an RBI single and Brian Anderson added an run-scoring double for the White Sox.

Floyd (16-7) put runners in scoring position in four of his seven innings but gave up just two runs for his first win in three starts this month. Floyd gave up nine hits, including Jason Giambi's 31st homer, and struck out three without walking a batter.

Derek Jeter passed Lou Gehrig for most career hits at the soon-to-close Yankee Stadium with his 1,270th, a sharp single in the first inning.

Indians 12, Twins 9, 11 innings

In Cleveland, Victor Martinez hit a three-run homer with one out in the 11th and Cleveland hurt Minnesota's postseason chances.

The Twins, who rallied from an early seven-run deficit, lost their third straight and fell 2 1/2 games behind Chicago in the AL Central with 11 games remaining.

Franklin Gutierrez opened the 11th with a single off Joe Nathan (0-2) and went to second on a sacrifice. Jhonny Peralta walked and Martinez hit a 1-1 pitch for his second homer of the season.

Tom Mastny (2-2) gave up one hit in the 11th and earned the win.

The Twins scored twice in the eighth to take a 9-8 lead on an RBI double by Justin Morneau and a go-ahead sacrifice fly by Delmon Young.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Chris Waters threw a four-hit shutout and Luke Scott homered to lead Baltimore.

Toronto lost its third straight and saw a six-game home winning streak ended. The Blue Jays had won seven of their past eight games against the Orioles.

Baltimore, which had lost 17 of 21 coming in, posted its first shutout since beating Texas 9-0 on Aug. 9.

Making his ninth major league start, Waters (3-3) walked two and struck out three. The lefthander was 0-3 with a 6.45 ERA in his past four outings.

Scott opened the fourth with a homer to center, his 23rd, off reliever John Parrish, as the Orioles won consecutive games for the first time since a three-game winning streak from Aug. 13-15.

Toronto starter Shaun Marcum (9-7) left after two-plus innings because of numbness in his right forearm. Marcum missed 27 games earlier this season with a sore right elbow.

Rangers 5, Tigers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Marlon Byrd hit a two-run triple in the ninth and scored the winning run on Chris Davis' single as Texas extended Detroit's losing streak to six games.

Fernando Rodney (0-6) took over to start the ninth, but walked Michael Young after the count was 0-2 and allowed Josh Hamilton's single before Byrd tripled into the right-field corner.

The Tigers intentionally walked consecutive batters to load the bases for Davis, and the rookie singled over the head of drawn-in left fielder Matt Joyce.

Detroit went ahead with three runs in the seventh off Kevin Millwood, after the Texas starter had retired 16 consecutive batters. The Tigers led 4-2 going to the ninth when Rodney came on for his sixth blown save in 17 chances.

Royals 6, Mariners 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Ryan Shealy, John Buck and David DeJesus homered and Kansas City extended its winning streak to five games.

The Mariners are 0-6 to start an 11-game three-city trip and have lost 10 of their past 13.

Shealy and DeJesus homered in the four-run fifth as the Royals batted around. DeJesus led off the inning with a home run off Brandon Morrow. It was DeJesus' first in 178 at-bats. His previous was on July 12, a game-winner in the ninth, also off Morrow.

Shealy's two-run homer was his fifth in nine games since a Sept. 2 promotion from Triple-A Omaha.

Morrow (2-4) gave up six runs and eight hits in four-plus innings.

Tomlin: Roethlisberger's shoulder not separated

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin clarified the status of quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's shoulder: Sprained but not separated.

The injury will likely keep Roethlisberger from fully participating in practice Wednesday, but not from playing on Sunday against Philadelphia.

The Steelers said last week that their quarterback was nursing a sore shoulder, but a TV commentator on Sunday night termed the injury a shoulder separation.

During his weekly news conference Tuesday, Tomlin appeared agitated by the latter description.

"I have no idea where that report came from," Tomlin said. "It didn't come from me or my medical staff. If anybody in here has got any information about where that report came from, send them to me."

Tomlin said Roethlisberger sprained his AC joint, an injury to the ligaments that attach the collarbone to the shoulder blade.

Asked if Roethlisberger was the source of the disputed information, Tomlin said, "Not to my knowledge."

The issue may be one of semantics. The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons describes a mild shoulder separation as a sprain of the AC ligament. It differs from more severe shoulder separations in which the ligament is torn.

Whatever the injury, Roethlisberger threw for 186 yards and a touchdown during Pittsburgh's 10-6 win over Cleveland on Sunday and is expected to play this Sunday against the Eagles.

"He said it feels better than it did a week ago, which is good," Tomlin said.

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger throws in the first half of an NFL football game against the Houston Texans in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008.

Roethlisberger was sacked three times Sunday but perhaps endured his hardest hit—from 350-pound Browns defensive tackle Shaun Rogers - after releasing the ball. Roethlisberger appeared to hold his arm gingerly after that play.

Tomlin said Roethlisberger can do no further damage to the shoulder by playing. The coach was asked if it was a worry that his quarterback was missing so much practice time.

"It really depends on the quarterback," Tomlin said. "Some guys require a great number of snaps to get prepared to play. Some guys can learn visually, film room and so forth. Thankfully with Ben he's a pretty quick study and sharp guy. ... It doesn't take him a great number of reps to be prepared to play.

"Hopefully it won't be an issue this week. I know it won't be an excuse."

In other injury news, defensive end Brett Keisel has a calf strain. He is out for the Eagles game and likely for at least a month overall, though Tomlin said he would be evaluated "week to week."

Travis Kirschke is expected to take his place in the starting lineup, with veteran Orpheus Roye being added to the active roster Sunday so he can join the team's six-man rotation on the defensive line.

Also, starting cornerback Deshea Townsend's heel contusion might force him to miss his second game in a row.

Linebacker James Farrior (back) and wide receiver Santonio Holmes (knee) are starters who will be limited in practice due to injury but will play in Philadelphia.

NFL BRIEFS

Merriman fined $7,500 for QB hit

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman had surgery to repair two torn ligaments in his left knee on Monday. The surgery, performed by Dr. John Uribe in the Miami area, repaired Merriman's posterior cruciate and lateral collateral ligaments. Merriman will miss the rest of the season. The surgery went well and there was no further damage to Merriman's knee, according to a person with knowledge of the situation, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't released any information. Chargers general manager A.J. Smith didn't return a phone call seeking comment. Merriman tried to play this season with the torn ligaments but announced last Tuesday that he would have surgery. He played only in the season opener, a 26-24 loss to Carolina. Also Monday, NFL spokesman Corry Rush confirmed that Merriman was fined $7,500 for unnecessarily striking Carolina quarterback Jake Delhomme below the knees. Merriman, a three-time Pro Bowler, had two tackles and no sacks in the Panthers game.

Referees support Ed Hochuli following botched call

WYLIE, Texas (AP)—Ed Hochuli received the support of the NFL Referees Association on Tuesday, two days after he botched a call at the end of the San Diego-Denver game that allowed the Broncos to keep possession and go on to score the winning points. "No one feels worse about this than Ed, but like the coaches and players in our high-speed game, mistakes will occur," NFLRA executive director Tim Millis said in a statement. "The NFLRA stands by Ed Hochuli as a 19-year veteran with multiple Super Bowl and countless playoff game experience who has the integrity and character to admit a mistake and accept the criticism that comes with it."

The crucial call occurred with the Broncos at the Chargers 1-yard-line in the final minute. Denver quarterback Jay Cutler dropped back to pass, the ball slipped out of his hands, bounced off the grass and into the arms of San Diego linebacker Tim Dobbins. Hochuli, a former NFLRA president, ruled it an incomplete pass. Replay ruled it a fumble, but it was spotted at the 10, where the ball hit the ground, and given to Denver because the rules did not permit possession to be awarded to San Diego because the whistle had blown. Denver went on to score a touchdown and a 2-point conversion to win 39-38.

Texans considering Rice Stadium for next home game

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Texans owner Bob McNair has discussed the possibility of his team playing at Rice Stadium if repairs to Reliant Stadium from Hurricane Ike can't be made in time for its first home game on Oct. 5. The stadium's retractable roof lost five pieces in the storm and officials said large pieces of debris had fallen into the stadium.

Though he has discussed playing at Rice, which is four miles from Reliant, McNair is "optimistic" that repairs can be made in time for Houston to play at home against the Indianapolis Colts on Oct. 5."We would have to talk to them at Rice, but certainly it's a large enough stadium that it is a possibility," McNair said Tuesday. Rice Stadium holds 47,000 in its current configuration, but the tarps could be moved off the end zone seating to expand the capacity to 70,000. It was opened in 1950 and hosted the Super Bowl in 1974. McNair said engineers are going over Reliant, which seats 69,500, this week to look for possible structural damage, but had not found any by Tuesday. "I am optimistic that we are not going to find any structural damage, the damage is just going to be to the roof and that's something we're going to be able to deal with," he said.

McNair said there is a possibility the Texans could play their home games without a roof, but that officials are worried about possible drainage issues if there is any significant rainfall while it is uncovered.

Seahawks reacquire Robinson, trade for WR Colbert

SEATTLE (AP)—The Seattle Seahawks took two steps to bolster their injured-depleted wide receivers by trading for Keary Colbert and reacquiring Koren Robinson on Tuesday.

Seattle agreed to a one-year contract with Robinson, its former No. 1 draft choice. Agent Alvin Keels confirmed the agreement and its length in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Robinson worked out for the Seahawks on Tuesday and convinced team president Tim Ruskell he has changed since Ruskell released him in the 2005 season because of repeated problems with alcohol. The Seahawks have lost six wide receivers to injury this season. Robinson already is listed as No. 1 on Seattle's depth chart at wide receiver for Sunday's game against St. Louis, a matchup of winless teams. "Just because of the terms and circumstances I left Seattle on, I never thought I'd be back," Robinson said on a conference call. "I'm grateful for this chance. I think it can be a good story—for me and the team." The 28-year-old Robinson said he has been sober for 25 months thanks to a new marriage, two young sons, a baby girl due next month and religion. I'm definitely proud of that," he said.

Kelly arrested on suspicion of DUI

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Oakland Raiders defensive end Tommy Kelly was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. Authorities say Kelly was booked at Oakland's Glenn E. Dyer Detention Facility on Monday and later released. Calls to the Raiders and Kelly's agent were not immediately returned. The Raiders signed Kelly to a $50.5 million contract this year even though the veteran defensive lineman was coming off a serious knee injury that cut his 2007 season short. Kelly had surgery to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. Kelly replaced Warren Sapp as the anchor of the Raiders' defensive line.

Injured Brady takes part in Patriots QBs meeting

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady, out for the season with a knee injury, is still trying to help his teammates win games.

Last season's NFL MVP took part in the New England Patriots quarterbacks meeting Saturday, the day before Matt Cassel started in his place in the team's 19-10 win over the New York Jets.

"Last week, he came in a little bit at the end of the week. He was in our quarterbacks meeting on Saturday and stuff like that," coach Bill Belichick said in a conference call Tuesday. "Going forward this week that might be the same, it might be a little bit different. It goes depending on how his rehab schedule goes and what we're doing at the times when he is available."

A Patriots spokesman declined comment Tuesday on whether Brady had undergone surgery. *The Boston Globe* reported last week that Brady had torn anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his left knee and likely would have surgery in about a month.

Brady was hurt midway through the first quarter of the Patriots' season-opening 17-10 win over Kansas City when he was hit by Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard.

Three days later, he visited his teammates at Gillette Stadium.

After the win over the Jets, Cassel, who made his first start since his senior year in high school, said he had talked a lot with Brady who had started 128 consecutive games.

"We had many different conversations on many different aspects of the game," Cassel said. "His big advice was to go out there, manage the game, be smart with the football, and that we have enough good players on this team to win if I do that."

Unlike Brady, Cassel stuck almost exclusively to short, safe passes and finished 16-for-23 for 165 yards with no touchdown or interceptions against the Jets.

He could get some more help from the two-time Super Bowl MVP as he prepares for his second start Sunday at home against Miami (0-2).

"We don't have a specific schedule on it or anything like that. Right now, the priority for Tom is to rehab and do everything he can to get back to 100 percent, and that's a long process," Belichick said. "Tom's always been great about helping other players and being part of the team, or being part of whatever we're doing.

"I'm sure that Tom will continue to be involved like he always has. To what degree, what the time frame is and the structure of it and all that, that's not in place and it will change during the course of the year, too."

Cassel and the rest of the Patriots already are familiar with their next opponent. In preparing for their most recent game, they watched film of the Jets' season-opening win over the Dolphins.

"Seeing them play against the Jets last week gave us a little bit of a head start on them," Belichick said. "We are so familiar with the Jets that it's a good comparison to see how they match up against a team that we just played."

PIC/Miller beach volleyball draft set tonight

Team players for next week's opening of the Pacific Islands Club/Miller Lite 4-person Co-ed Fall Beach Volleyball League would be selected in a banquet tonight, the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association announced yesterday.

The draft and banquet starts at 7pm at the PIC volleyball court, where the tournament format will be discussed.

NMIVA said this season's format would be slightly different from last year and inaugural games are scheduled on Tuesday Sept. 23.

Games will be held twice a week and the league will run up to November.

Entry fees are $25 for non-NMIVA members and $20 for members. That includes the league, buffet and drinks at the banquet, and a token item such as towel, koozie, hat, or T-shirt.

For more information please call Lindsey Sosovec, PIC Sports Manager at 670-235-6231 extension 5147.

NMIVA is the CNMI's umbrella volleyball association covering all aspects of indoor and outdoor games and players. NMIVA is a bona fide current member of FIVB and NMASA.

All of the organization's fundraisers put money into the development of volleyball in the CNMI.

NMIVA is encouraging volleyball enthusiasts to become a member with an annual fee of $20. Members get regular email updates and discounts on all NMIVA-sanctioned volleyball events throughout the year. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Oleai, Utopia top respective divisions in Electronic Darts

By NAZARIO RODRIGEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oleai Black Stallion, Utopia and Oleai No Fear, as well as four other teams are leading the way in their respective divisions, based on the latest available team standings in the ongoing Saipan Electronic Darts Association.

Black Stallion remained on top of the heap with 43 wins and 25 losses in the Master's Division, while D'Companeros are in second with 37-31. The Heavy Bombers are tied with the VFW Chubby Wockees with 28-40.

Utopia 4-Corners are pacing the A-Division with their 48-20 win-loss slate D'Pirates are in second place with 40-28 and the VFW Major Leaks are running third with 37-31. Completing the cast are Sierra's Shakem Up (35-33), Vargas Snipers (29-39) and Primos Seki D Umber (15-53).

In Tuesday-B, Oleai No Fear is on top with 41-19, Krystal 80 Proofers (35-25), Primos Payday Time (34-25), Primos Nauhgty Boyz (34-26), Jonny's Insane Dart Posse (32-28), Jonny's Fujin (30-30), D'Pirates B Destroyers (21-39) and Jonny's Samurai (13-47).

Updated standings for the other divisions are as follows:

■ **Thursday B** – Utopia Hot Shots (39-21), Oleai Shooters (28-17), Primos Warriors (27-18), Len's Light Out (23-22), The Flair Sakude Umbre (30-30), Coral Reef B-Barracuda 28-32), Oleai Get 'er Done (26-34), D'Pirates Dart Knights (26-34) and Naked Fish Naked Boyz (13-32).

■ **C-Division** – Jonny's Asian Dart Heads (29-16), Naked Fish Unagas (37-23), Remington Dart Vador (23-22), Naked Fish Hafa Mas (30-30), Primos No Expectations (22-23) and VFW Clubmates (29-31).

■ **C-Division** – Gaia Bonzai (29-31), Coral Reef Barracuda (26-34), Coral Reef Shark Attack (15-30).

■ **Ladies Division** – Naked Fish Naked Shooters (34-11), Oleai B-52's (30-15), Coral Reef Mermaids (20-15), Jonny's COM (22-38) and Coral Reef Sting Rays (14-31).

PACE-SETTER

From Page 28

first base, thrice to second and once to third by Mike Palacios in the sixth inning.

With the loss, the Choll Aces further slipped to seventh place with a 4-4 card in the 11-team field tournament.

In one of two games won via forfeiture, PIC (4-5) did not show-up for its scheduled game, which benefited co-leader Brotherhood.

Fifth-running Ready Mix also celebrated without flexing its muscles as opponent Ngiwal failed to show-up.

It was the fifth win in seven games for Ready Mix, while dealing Ngiwal its sixth defeat in seven outings.

In another game, Man Amigos (5-2) established an 8-1 lead in the bottom of the second inning en route to a 13-6 triumph over the Koror Bombers.

PTI won the day's most lopsided contest, a 10-0 count against the tournament's favorite whipping boys Tanapag Falcons.

PTI has improved to a 7-2 record in third place while the Falcons remained winless after nine assignments.

SAIPAN

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Insurance (1,787), PT (1770), Century Finance Corp. (1,671), Ernst & Young (1,753), and Seabridge (1,587).

CIC was composed of team captain Rene Cariazo, Gerry De Guzman, Gary Ting, Macoi Aguda, and Carlito Bernabe and won $150.

Genoveva's, which was captained by Tony David and had Robert Reyes, Danny Baddiles, Gigi Zapanta, and Malou Guzman as members, pocketed $100.

The Ronnel Calma-captained J's Restaurant won $75. Other members of the team were Reena Trinidad, Miriam Cabading, Robert Perez, Nel Matanguihan, Donna Paleracio, and Yaro Buena.

Deloitte & Touche, which was led by captain Yho Villavicencio, pocketed $60. Joining Villavicencio on the team were Jerry Kaneshi, Mar Masilungan, Deo Manese, and Jeff Marling.

Individual top performances were also recognized in the tournament.

Villavicencio and Cariazo recorded the highest score in the CPA division with 200 and 199 pinfalls, respectively.

Vilavicencio also ruled the three-series score with 514, followed by Reyes (487) and Gerry De Guzman (478).

In the guest category, Jorge Soledad posted the highest individual score with 224 pinfalls.

Meanwhile, MIFICPA thanked the following companies and individuals for supporting the tournament: PTI, Ernst & Young, Deloitte & Touche, Mr. Eli Arago, Jet Holdings Company, Century Insurance Company, Ltd., Shirley's Coffee Shop, Seabridge, Genoveva's Hair Power, Traders Insurance, Century Finance Corporation, Saipan Stevedore, City Trust, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Coca-Cola Micronesia, and Island Apparel.

AUTONOMOUS

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mous miss, Richard Morgan canned a long jumper to cut the lead to three, 107-110, with 1:23 left in the game

Chris Camacho and Brostrom split their charities, while Ponce Rasa went 2-for-2 in the ensuing plays, which saw Tinian giving up successive fouls.

Just when Autonomous thought it had a safe lead at the 114-107 tally, with 49 seconds remaining in the match, Borja drilled another triple to move Tinian within four, 110-114

Tinian hoping to stop the clock and praying for an Autonomous' misses, fouled Bobby Coldeen and Rasa in the next two offensive plays.

Rasa and Coldeen ended what's left of Tinian's hopes to steal the win when they both shot 2-for-2 from the stripe.

Rasa led all scorers with 47 points, while Coldeen and Brostrom chipped in 27 and 20 markers, respectively. Camacho added 15.

Ringo Reyes paced Tinian with 44 points, but lost steam in the closing minutes of the game, nailing only two points in the last four minutes of the match.

Santos and Borja contributed 24 and 23 points, respectively, but these were not enough to prevent Tinian from bowing out of the competition.

Tinian already has two losses in the double-elimination playoffs. It lost to PTI via forfeiture two weeks ago.

Autonomous has a 2-1 record in the playoffs and must win against the victor of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Department of Corrections tiff tonight to advance to the semifinals.

DCAA and DOC were playing in the first game last night. Northern Marianas College and PTI were dueling in the second match. Results of both matches were unavailable at press time.

NMC and PTI were dueling for the first finals ticket.

The Autonomous-Tinian game was a neck-and-neck battle with Tinian leading by only four after the first period.

Reyes had 11 first-quarter points to give Tinian a four-point advantage in the first quarter.

Autonomous tied the game at halftime, 53-all, with Rasa, who was held to two field goals in the first canto, waxing hot in the second firing 14 points, and Brostrom adding eight.

Rasa continued to burn the basket, scoring 10 more points in the third to put Autonomous in the driver's seat, 82-80, entering the fourth period.

The final canto was a seesaw affair at the start, until Autonomous tried pulling away midway with Rasa and Coldeen trading baskets. But the hard-fighting Tinian crew kept coming back before free throws decided the outcome of the game.

Autonomous 118 – Rasa 47, Coldeen 27, Brostrom 20, Camacho 15, Wesley 9.

Tinian 112 – Reyes 44, Santos 24, Borja 23, Sablan 6, Morgan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-24, 53-all, 82-80, 118-112

Referees: Dado Vistal and Gilbert Espinosa.

SIXERS

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the break with a 28-19 lead.

But the Kontenders worked their way back into the game in the second half with Ogumoro's triple and Soana Pua's layups.

The Kontenders moved within one, 44-45 midway in the second half after Ogumoro made his fifth triple, and that was when the game started to heat up.

Ian Benavente stopped the bleeding for the Sixers, when he nailed an under-goal stab and drew a foul. He made the bonus shot to give the Sixers more breathing space, 48-44, going into the last seven minutes of the match.

The next plays had both camps taunting each other whether they made or missed shots.

But the Sixers had the last laugh, because after the Kontenders cut the lead to four, 61-57, the former behind Ernest Duenas closed out with an 18-4 run in the last three minutes of the game.

The Kontenders were silent for more than two minutes of the match and scored four points only in the last 20 seconds of the final quarter. They lost focus and took ill-advised shots in the closing minutes to fail to snap their losing skid.

After a 50-44 advantage, Ernest Duenas made three straight baskets to pad the lead to 12, 56-44, with less than two minutes left in the game.

Duenas drew a foul after he nailed his third basket, and the Kontenders showed a classic example of lack of focus, because after Duenas missed the bonus shot, D.J. Ngirchongor leisurely retrieved the ball and tried to give it back to a referee instead of going after the rebound.

The possession returned to the Sixers with Matt Duenas making a putback off an Ernest Duenas missed jumper.

The Kontenders never recovered from thereon, while the Sixers continued to can under-goal stabs, causing more frustrations to the former's defense.

Ernest Duenas finished with 24 points, while Joe Ada and Matt Duenas had 13 apiece.

Ogumoro scored 23 points, but took several hurried triples in the end. Pua contributed 12 markers.

Sixers 75 – E. Duenas 24, Ada 13, M. Duenas 13, Benavente 7, Agtarap 6, Bigera 4, Flores 4, Salas 2.

Kontenders 61 – Ogumoro 23, S. Pua 12, Kaipat 7, M. Pua 6, Laniyo 4, E. Dillay 4, D. DIllay 2.

Scoring by halves: 28-19, 75-61.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Tampa Bay	89	60	.597	–
Boston	89	62	.589	1
New York	80	71	.530	10
Toronto	80	71	.530	10
Baltimore	67	82	.450	22
Central Division				
Chicago	84	66	.560	–
Minnesota	82	69	.543	2 1/2
Cleveland	74	77	.490	10 1/2
Detroit	70	80	.467	14
Kansas City	67	84	.444	17 1/2
West Division				
Los Angeles	92	58	.613	–
Texas	75	77	.493	18
Oakland	70	80	.467	22
Seattle	57	93	.380	35

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	84	67	.556	–
New York	83	67	.553	1/2
Florida	78	72	.520	5 1/2
Atlanta	67	84	.444	17
Washington	58	93	.384	26
Central Division				
Chicago	91	58	.611	–
Milwaukee	83	68	.550	9
Houston	80	70	.533	11 1/2
St. Louis	78	72	.520	13 1/2
Cincinnati	69	81	.460	22 1/2
Pittsburgh	63	88	.417	29
West Division				
Los Angeles	79	72	.523	–
Arizona	74	76	.493	4 1/2
Colorado	69	83	.454	10 1/2
San Francisco	68	83	.450	11
San Diego	58	94	.382	21 1/2

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Dodgers 6, Pittsburgh 2
Florida 5, Houston 1
Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 7
Washington 1, N.Y. Mets 0
Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 2
Chicago Cubs 5, Milwaukee 4
Colorado 10, San Diego 3
Arizona 2, San Francisco 0
Cleveland 12, Minnesota 9, 11 innings
Baltimore 2, Toronto 0
Tampa Bay 2, Boston 1
Chicago White Sox 6, N.Y. Yankees 2
Texas 5, Detroit 4
Kansas City 6, Seattle 3
Oakland 8, L.A. Angels 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	5	0
San Antonio Sixers	4	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	3	1
Rollers I	2	1
G-Stars	2	2
Kontenders	2	3
Suns	1	3
C.K. Saints	0	4
Rollers II	0	5

Belau Softball Standings

Auel Auel	7	1
Brotherhood	7	1
PTI	7	2
SAI-PAL	5	3
Ready Mix	5	2
Man Amigos	5	2
Choll Aces	4	4
PIC	4	5
Ngiwal	1	6
Haga-T	1	6
Bombers	1	8
Falcons	0	9

Sept. 14 Games

Auel Auel def. Choll Aces, 5-0
Brotherhood def. PIC, forfeiture
PTI def. Falcons, 10-0
Ready Mix def. Ngiwal, forfeiture
Man Amigos def. Bombers, 13-6

AFC Grassroots and Youth Workshop

Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Asian Football Confederation's John Whittle introduces to the participants AFC's Vision Asia and its grassroots and youth program in a workshop last Saturday at the Azucena Room II of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Brenda Schultz explains one of the roles of coaches, while other participants and AFC Grassroots and Youth Department acting director John Whittle listens.

Patricia Coleman discusses one of the characteristics of 10-and-under players.

Participants share a light moment during the workshop.

Chantelle Voutilainen, right, introduces Lydia Tan, to other participants before the workshop starts.

Greg Borja, right, and Lucas Knecht introduce each other to more than 40 participants in the workshop.

John Whittle checks on his notes.

Greg Borja, left, shares his thoughts about the characteristics of 12-and-under players.

John Whittle and the workshop participants watch a game and later analyze the coach's reactions.

PIC/Miller beach volleyball draft set tonight

Team players for next week's opening of the Pacific Islands Club/Miller Lite 4-person Co-ed Fall Beach Volleyball League would be selected in a banquet tonight.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cubs hand Brewers Sabathia first NL loss

Chicago handed CC Sabathia his first NL loss and Milwaukee its fifth straight defeat while spoiling interim manager Dale Sveum's debut.

24

Sixers subdue Kontenders in heated matchup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The San Antonio Sixers notched their fourth win in as many games after beating the Kontenders, 75-61, in a tension-filled game in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sixers prevailed by 14 points. But the game was close midway in the second half until the San Antonio-based squad had an 18-4 windup to thwart the stubborn Kontenders in a game that saw players from both camps almost getting into altercations several times.

The last one happened in the remaining 1.2 seconds of the match after Trevor Ogumoro was called for an unsportsmanlike foul for pushing Ernest Duenas, who was trying to escape Ogumoro's defense from the backcourt.

There were exchanges of heated words and irritated looks at midcourt, but referees Gabriel White and Connie Camacho, and Richard Brostrom, who was waiting for the PTI caging game, stepped in to prevent further confrontation.

In the end, both camps shook hands and the Sixers went home unbeaten, while the Kontenders absorbed their third straight loss after a 2-0 start.

The Sixers controlled the first half, entering

See SIXERS on Page 26

The Sixers' Aaron Agtarap goes for a reverse layup during their game against the Kontenders in the Rotary caging Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Autonomous knocks out Tinian in shootout

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Autonomous kept its title-defense bid alive after outgunning Tinian, 118-112, in their playoff game in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/ Business Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The high-scoring match ended in favor of Autonomous, as the defending champion shot impressively from the 15-foot line in the last two minutes of the game.

Autonomous went 8-for-10 from the stripe to foil Tinian's repeated comeback bids. Actually, the defending champion missed only once in its 10 trips to the free-throw line, but Richard Brostrom's second charity was nullified as he stepped on the line.

Autonomous led by nine, 110-101, with less than three minutes remaining on the clock, but Tinian refused to give up.

Anthony Borja hit a booming triple and after an Autono-

See AUTONOMOUS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMC's Ponce Rasa drives past two Tinian defenders during their playoff game in the PTI caging Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Stevedore rules 'Bowling Fun Day'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Stevedore topped the 'Bowling Fun Day" organized by the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan last Sunday.

Saipan Stevedore bested 13 other teams in the one-day tournament, which aimed to bring together members and non-members of the organization and promote camaraderie through sports.

More than 60 accountants and auditors from various companies on Saipan joined the tournament.

Saipan Stevedore took the championship after scoring 2,310 pinfalls. Members of the winning team were Christy Villaflor, Joy and Toti Limpin, Antonio Verdaguer, and Linda Yarobwenal. They went home with $250 cash.

In second place was Century Insurance Company, Ltd., which knocked down 1,984 pins, followed by Genoveva's (1,963), J's Restaurant (1,943), Deloitte & Touche (1,935), PTI (1,838), Eli (1,811), Shirley's Coffee Shop (1,799), Traders

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Members of Saipan Stevedore team pose for a group photo after winning MIFICPA's "Bowling Fun Day."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pace-setter Auel Auel blanks Choll Aces, 5-0

By NAZARIO RODRIGEZ JR.
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REPORTER

It was a no-sweat win for Brotherhood, while co-leader Auel Auel won easily in last Sunday's games of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-pitch Softball League at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

The two teams remained tied on top with identical 7-1 records. They have three more games left in the first elimination round.

Auel Auel leaned on a solid defense to score a 5-0 victory against the Choll Aces.

Emery Cruz singled to send home Melvin Aldan, while Martin Ayuyu scored on an error to give Auel Auel a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning.

Vince Reyes, Aldan, and Ayuyu also made three runs in the fourth for Auel Auel as the Choll Aces were bothered by the tough defense could not even reach first base until the fourth.

Auel Auel's Steven Igisam allowed only five hits, struck out one batter as his team finished off the Choll Aces with 1-2-3 groundouts on five of seven innings.

The Choll Aces reached only five times into

See PACE-SETTER on Page 26